

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1971

**Moorer Says Saigon Strike
In Laos Is Nearly at 'Peak'**

WASHINGTON, March 14 (UPI)—Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said today that the South Vietnamese strike in Laos was "just about at the peak" and had "severely disrupted" North Vietnam's military operations.

Admiral Moorer, asked about reports from Saigon that a major part of the incursion would be ended within 18 days, declined to estimate how much

longer the action would last, saying that "no one can put a specific time" on it.

The admiral discounted reports that the South Vietnamese had been pulling back under strong enemy pressure in some areas of Laos, and said that a withdrawal Friday in which guns were left behind had been planned two or three days in advance.

Admiral Moorer answered questions about the Laotian operation on the American Broadcasting Company's "Issues and Answers" television program.