

U.S. Reports Flights by Hanoi's MIG's Over Laos

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WASHINGTON, April 26 —

North Vietnamese MIG fighters have darted into southern Laos in the last few weeks "on several occasions to threaten U.S. air-craft," a Pentagon spokesman said today.

Jerry W. Friedheim, the spokesman, said he was not aware of any instance in which a North Vietnamese fighter had actually fired at American air-

craft, and noted that the MIGs had usually come one at a time, flying low.

About six MIG-21's, operating from Quanlang air base, 49 miles northeast of Vinh in North Vietnam, have made limited flights across the border, he said.

This is the base that was hit by American fighter-bombers last Thursday, after a reconnaissance plane that they were escorting was attacked by missiles fired from the base, according to the United States

command. Two camouflaged MIG's on the ground were believed damaged in the raid against nearby anti-aircraft sites, Mr. Friedheim said last week.

He denied today that the raid had been intended as a warning against North Vietnamese flights into Laos.

Military sources could not explain this new action by North Vietnamese pilots. Some speculated that Hanoi was trying to make a propaganda gain by shooting down an American

bomber or gunship over Laos. Others thought that Hanoi might be trying to lure United States fighters into an ambush by waiting anti-aircraft crews.

Still others wondered whether Hanoi had decided to give new pilots experience outside their own borders to prepare for the time when most American planes would have withdrawn and North Vietnam might want to fight for air superiority over the Laotian panhandle or the northern provinces of South Vietnam.