

Memo

Nix Ad  
✓ Indochina  
POWs

file 8 Nov 71

Between 8 Nov 71 and 8 Mar 72, Gen. John Lavelle, commander of U.S. air forces in Vietnam, ordered 28 missions involving 147 strikes by individual planes against unauthorized targets in North Vietnam, in violation of official policy. See chronology, filed POWs, under date of 10 Feb 72.

Investigation of this matter was completed 23 Mar 72 (do not yet have date it was begun), Gen. Lavelle was recalled (no date) and he was fired and demoted 7 Apr 72. See transcript of KPFA News filed Nix Ad (Lavelle) 12 Jun 72; excerpt:

" .... In addition to the question of command and control, other more serious questions were raised by the Lavelle affair. With daily debriefing of pilots taking place, how could the White House not have been aware of the offensive bombings? If the White House did know, were officials deliberately lying about the then policy of no offensive bombings? Did the offensive bombings and their vehement denial by high officials\* have any effect on the break-off in the Paris peace talks and on the latest round of escalations? At the White House press briefing today [12 Jun], press officer Gerald Warren refused to comment on any of these questions."

\*See Nix Ad