

U.S. Jets Attack Radar Site Within 82 Miles of Hanoi

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By Reuters

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 22—Two American jets, darting over North Vietnam today, fired missiles at an anti-aircraft radar site 82 miles southeast of Hanoi in the nearest American attack to the North Vietnamese capital since the United States announced a bombing halt in November, 1968.

An American military spokesman said the two F-105 Thunderchief jets were supporting operations in northern Laos when they detected the radar missile site tracking them.

They swerved toward North Vietnam and each fired a surface-to-ground missile.

It was the 101st "protective reaction" strike by United

States warplanes inside North Vietnam this year.

From the site of the strike, the aircraft appeared to have been supporting Laotian troops conducting rearward actions against Pathet Lao guerrillas and North Vietnamese troops who seized effective control of the strategic Plaine des Jarres this week.

The attacks came after United States jets raided North Vietnam missile sites yesterday. In those attacks, a United States command spokesman.

United States Air Force Thunderchief jets twice attacked anti-aircraft radar sites about 100 miles northwest of the city of Vinh after the radar

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stepped up at this time or the year as enemy truck traffic moves down the Ho Chi Minh supply trail, which passes through Laos.

In the ground war little action was reported in South Vietnam.

South Vietnamese troops reported killing 19 enemy soldiers yesterday in scattered action in Cambodia. South Vietnamese casualties were two killed and several wounded, a command spokesman said.

Cambodian Battle in 3d Day

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Dec. 22 (AP)—A Cambodian military spokesman said today that as a battle for the riverside village of Peam Chhkork, 46 miles north of here, entered its third day, North Vietnamese forces were so close to Government lines that allied warplanes were unable to bomb and strafe effectively.

The spokesman, Capt. Chhang Song, also said that Cambodia had no plans for a Christmas cease-fire similar to the 24-hour truce proclaimed by South Vietnam.

Evacuation in Laos

VIENTIANE, Laos, Dec. 22 (UPI)—The commander of the Government's Second Military Region, Maj. Gen. Vang Pao, ordered the evacuation today of about 10,000 civilian and military dependents from Long Tieng, a key base on the Government's defense perimeter that has been under attack since enemy troops reoccupied the strategic Plaine des Jarres Saturday. Long Tieng is on the southern edge of the plain.

Transport planes of Air America, an airline supported by the United States, evacuated about 2,000 refugees today from Long Tieng, while United States and Laotian planes reportedly bombed North Vietnamese troops advancing to within 12 miles of the base.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, (Reuters)—The Defense Department acknowledged today a shift in policy, giving United States combat pilots greater freedom to attack anti-aircraft missile sites in North Vietnam. Pilots now are authorized to strike these sites as soon as

they suspect their aircraft have been spotted by radar, the Pentagon said.

"Our pilots have had the authority to respond to radar for some time," a spokesman, Jerry W. Friedheim, said

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U.S. JETS ATTACK FOE'S RADAR SITE

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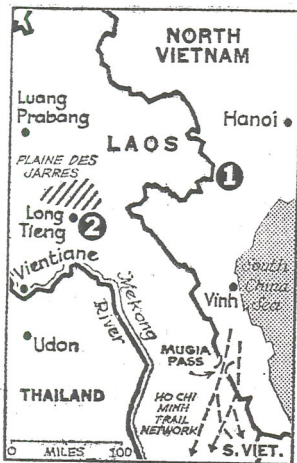
had started tracking them.

The spokesman said that it was believed one of the radar sites had been destroyed and that there had been no damage to American aircraft.

He added that there had been no further sightings of Soviet-made MIG-21 fighters since they attacked American fighter-bombers on the weekend and presumably shot down at least one.

United States pilots have been warned to be on the lookout for MIG's when flying over Laos and also are taking added precautions against missile attacks from North Vietnam.

The battle for control of the skies over Laos is traditionally



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Attacked missile site is 82 miles southwest of Hanoi (1). In northern Laos, dependents at Long Tieng (2) were ordered to leave as foe neared.