

# ROGERS DECLARES U.S. WILL CONTINUE ASIAN AIR STRIKES

DEC 24 1971

At a Year-End News Parley,  
He Terms Raids in Laos  
and Cambodia Essential

## ENEMY'S ACTIVITY CITED

NYTimes

Secretary's Words Seen as  
Warning as Jets Attack  
75 Miles From Hanoi

By **TERENCE SMITH**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23—Secretary of State William P. Rogers said today that United States warplanes would continue their strikes against enemy positions in Laos and Cambodia during 1972 to blunt the new North Vietnamese offensives in those areas.

Addressing reporters in a year-end news conference at the State Department, Mr. Rogers described the recently increased air activity in Southeast Asia as "essential for the continuation of the Vietnamization program."

"We are going to continue the President's policy of supporting the South Vietnamese in Cambodia," he said, "and we will continue to give air support in Laos to interdict the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and to give air support in northern Laos."

Despite this activity, Mr. Rogers said, the President is determined to continue the withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam and will make "further announcements" about withdrawals next year.

### A Hanoi Challenge in Air

The Secretary's vigorous re-statement of the Administration's air policy appeared intended as a warning to North Vietnam, which has intensified the fighting in Cambodia and Laos in recent weeks and begun challenging allied air superiority for the first time in the war.

North Vietnamese MIG's and antiaircraft guns have brought down at least four American fighter-bombers in the last week. In retaliation, United States jets have raided North Vietnamese missile and gun positions within 100 miles of Hanoi.

United States officials report that more than 100 such strikes—officially labeled "protective reaction"—have been carried out in North Vietnam this year.

Today the United States command in Saigon reported one such raid 75 miles southwest of Hanoi. [Details on Page 6.]

In answer to a broad range of questions at his news conference, Mr. Rogers made the following points:

¶The Administration has "apologies to make" for statements lavishly  
"main "