

# Los Angeles Times Retracts Its Report On Vietnam Raids

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The Los Angeles Times has said it erred in publishing an article reporting that the United States conducted "heavy bombing raids" in South Vietnam on the day of the American evacuation from Saigon. The report was denied by the White House before publication.

The article, written from Hong Kong by George McArthur and published June 8, said the raids "were of such magnitude that they were almost certainly cleared personally by President Ford."

The retraction, which appeared in last Friday's Los Angeles Times, said, "The Times, after a lengthy investigation, now believes that parts of that story were wrong and other parts open to question."

The original dispatch quoted "authoritative sources" to the effect that the raids were ordered April 29 when the evacuation appeared to be in peril.

## Unequivocal Denials

Before the article appeared Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, and Joseph Laitin, a Defense Department spokesman, issued unequivocal denials of the story.

On June 8 The New York Times quoted parts of Mr. McArthur's article along with the denials by Mr. Nessen and Mr. Laitin.

William F. Thomas, editor of The Los Angeles Times, said the article "never should have been published in light of the strong denials without further checking." He said that Mr. McArthur had not been informed of the denials and that "the blame is entirely The Times's for publishing what appears to be at least a misleading story."

Mr. McArthur, who is now in Washington, said in the article last Friday that "The Times is convinced that the White House did not know of any significant bombing raids that day and certainly did not order them." He added that "the most persistent investigation has failed to turn up any hard evidence that any significant number of bombs were dropped in South Vietnam."