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# Asian Views On Bombing Are Mixed

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HONG KONG, April 18—Asian countries are reacting along predictable lines to the renewed American bombing attacks on Hanoi and Haiphong.

Countries that are basically anti-Communist or those that have close relations with the United States — Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Chinese Nationalist Government in Taiwan and the non-Communist governments in Indochina — have greeted the attacks with reactions ranging from strong approval to reserved acceptance.

China, India and North Korea have strongly condemned the attacks. Bangladesh and Pakistan have leaned toward disapproval but are too preoccupied with internal problems to pay much attention.

A number of countries that are inclined to regard the attacks as justified have been cautious in their official responses. Their desire to get along with the Soviet Union and an increasingly powerful China at a time when the United States is committed to a reduced military role in Asia is considered the main reason.

## Tokyo Press Is Critical

Japan is one of these countries, and Tokyo has refrained from publicly expressing what many in Japan believe to be support for the United States action. A large section of Japanese public opinion, however, opposes the attacks, and leading Japanese newspapers have criticized the bombings as not likely to contribute to a peaceful solution of the Vietnam conflict.

The Governments of the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore have so far withheld public comment for essentially the same reason as Japan. Privately they want the United States and its allies in Indochina to win the war and they favor the bombings as a demonstration of American resolve to block a Communist take-over of the area.

In Malaysia and Singapore, widespread public approval of the bombings was indicated in an editorial in the English-language Straits Times—circulated in both countries—which said that United States action should dispel any doubts Hanoi might have had about American determination to stem the invasion in South Vietnam.

Thailand, South Korea and the Government on Taiwan have upheld the bombings as a proper response to the North Vietnamese invasion. In a non-government comment reflecting opinion in these quarters, the Korea Times of Seoul said the United States should not end the bombings or resume peace talks until the Vietnamese Communists showed they were ready for compromise on terms acceptable to the United States and its allies.

## Chou Condemns Attacks

Peking's view was expressed yesterday by Premier Chou En-lai after a meeting with Tran Binh, the North Vietnamese charge d'affaires in the Chinese capital. Mr. Chou condemned the United States bombings and said they showed that Washington had again "embarked on the old track of war escalation" that had failed in the past and would fail again.

North Korea's critical reaction to the bombings, expressed today in a Pyongyang Government statement, was stronger than the Chinese. It called the bombings "an atrocious crime against the Vietnamese people" predicted the Vietnamese people would "smash" the "U.S. aggressors" and promised active North Korean assistance to this end.