

APR 17 1972

SF Examiner

Hanoi Calls U.S. Raids Desperate

TOKYO — (AP) — Hanoi declared today that the U.S. air raids over North Vietnam amounted to an admission that America faces a critical situation in the war, with South Vietnamese forces crumbling "on all battlefields."

The Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan said President Nixon, "like a grievously wounded beast, . . . is striking out madly and does not stop at the worst crimes."

"Eating up his promise to end U.S. involvement in Indochina, Nixon has involved the whole American nation in new and most serious military adventures in an attempt to save the disintegrating Saigon puppets."

The North Vietnamese army newspaper Quan Doi Nhan Dan said:

"Nixon cannot make the puppet army any more effective even if he sent in many more B-52s and warships. The decisive battle is on the ground, on the battlefield of South Vietnam, where the liberation army is indisputably stronger than the puppet army."

The commentaries were broadcast by Hanoi's official Vietnam News Agency,