

—EDITORIAL—

The Big Lie

Hitler has been widely credited with inventing the Big Lie, which means telling an outrageous untruth so vigorously that many people come to believe it. But Hitler didn't invent it.

Long before Hitler, Communist propagandists and their stooges were using the same technique. In their case it usually amounted to blaming an enemy for doing what they themselves already had done.

Today the Communists and their stooges — and their dupes — are still at it. And anyone who questions the remarkable efficiency of this topsy-turvy propaganda ploy needs only to consider its effectiveness in the current Vietnam crisis.

What are the facts? They are that President Nixon, for over three years, has been trying to wind down our participation in the conflict, bringing our troops home while arming our allies to defend themselves.

The facts are that the program was working, that peace and security for South Vietnam was within view. Then the aggressors from the North, armed by Moscow and Peking, suddenly launched their continuing mass invasion across a supposedly demilitarized zone.

What is the resultant propaganda? It is that our subsequent bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong, ordered by Mr. Nixon to protect our residual troops and to aid Saigon, constitutes a criminal escalation of hostilities that could spoil any friendly new accommodations with the Communist world.

The renewed fighting, in effect, becomes all our fault. Hanoi, Peking and Moscow all cry for us to stop the bombing, calling us war criminals in so many words. Incredibly, at home, leading senators and even Democratic aspirants to the White House take up the same refrain.

Now it really is incredible, this refrain from our doves—even though it is hardly new. For years they have instantly echoed and encouraged every grotesque inversion of truth by the Communist propaganda machine. In Washington yesterday, as a continuing example, Sen. J. William Fulbright had this pronouncement to make on our renewed bombings:

"I, for one, cannot possibly understand what consideration warranted these drastic measures."

Sen. Fulbright and his ilk may really not comprehend that the only reasonable response to outrageous assault is counter-attack, and that is the kindest observation possible to make about them.

The Communists, on the other hand, comprehend well that our greatest weakness lies in the foolishness of those who swallow and promote their Big Lies—such as that it is we, and not they, who are responsible for the latest explosion of hostilities in Vietnam.