

# New Plans for Bombing North

By Craig R. Whitney  
N.Y. Times Service

## Saigon

American military commanders and senior civilian officials here are preparing plans for drastically intensified bombing of North Vietnam if enemy forces continue their push on the city of Hue, according to authoritative informants.

"We are reviewing all options and some very serious things are being considered," one official said.

"Hue is the crucial factor," an American official said of the plans for intensified bombing of North Vietnam. "We'll wait to see about that before we decide what to do."

United States Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps planes have been flying about a hundred raids a day at targets in the southern part of North Vietnam for the last few weeks, trying to cut supply lines to disrupt the enemy offensive.

A hundred or so planes flew again yesterday, according to the U.S. command. The command also announced that 500 sorties were flown in the five days ended Wednesday evening, with almost a hundred trucks destroyed or damaged, seven tanks blown up, and 30 storage buildings and warehouses leveled. Antiaircraft artillery and missile

fire continued to be heavy, the command said.

The command has announced no raids by B-52 bombers over North Vietnam since April 24. Only once, on April 16, were B-52s used in the far north, in an attack on Haiphong, 60 miles from Hanoi.

The B-52s can each drop 24 tons of 500-pound and 750-pound bombs in a rec-

tangular pattern about half a mile long. The use of B-52s against Hanoi has not been ruled out here.

But one senior officer noted that such raids would have little if any effect on the defense of Hue and would be strictly retaliatory.

B-52s continued heavy raids in Quang Tri province yesterday, the U.S. command said, with one mission

two miles northeast of Quang Tri city and two each four miles to the south, five miles northwest, and 12 miles southwest of the city.

So far, according to officers of the command, no B-52 raids have been flown against the city itself and, one officer said, "probably they won't unless they put large numbers of troops in there."