

# More F-4s, 6th Carrier Going to War

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Washington

The Nixon administration ordered more than 50 additional F-4 fighter-bombers to the Vietnam theater yesterday and decided to add a sixth aircraft carrier to operations off Vietnam.

That will increase American air strength in Indochina to nearly 1000 combat aircraft.

The orders for air reinforcement came amid strong indications that raids would be resumed in the vicinity of Hanoi and Haiphong now that the Paris peace talks have been suspended.

"If I had my guess," one well-placed official said of the possibility: "I would guess they would be heavier than before."

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## VIETNAM WAR

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reinforcements.

South Vietnamese paratroopers cleared a 13-mile stretch of the highway by dawn today after launching the operation at noon yesterday.

Kontum is 25 miles due north of Pleiku, capital of the central highlands and the military headquarters of the region.

Not only will the clearing operation open the highway for military convoys, but it will allow an estimated 7000 civilians to leave Kontum.

U.S. sources said about 6500 refugees already have fled from Kontum south to Pleiku, most of them carried out by U.S. transport planes. A small number got out by road earlier.

The reopening of north-south Highway 14 came on a day of relative lull in the current level of action in the Indochina war. Saigon headquarters said there were 54 enemy-initiated actions, the lowest number since the North Vietnamese drive started.

In other development:

- The Viet Cong's clandestine radio said a "revolutionary administration" has been set up in Quang Tri, the northernmost provincial capital that fell to the North Vietnamese Monday.

- The first reconditioned United States tanks were delivered to the northern front to replace losses.

- Washington announced more planes were being sent to Southeast Asia, bringing

to around 300 the number sent to aid the South Vietnamese since early April. This will bring the total of

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U.S. land-based and carrier-based aircraft in the area to nearly 1000.

The Viet Cong broadcast a communique of "the Peoples Revolutionary Committee for Quang Tri" calling for nullification of "the administration and other organizations set up by the United States and the Saigon government."

"Secret agents and members of reactionary organizations must present themselves to the revolutionary administration with weapons, documents and radio equipment," the communique said. "Those who try to evade or to continue to operate for the enemy will be punished severely."

American M-48 medium tanks, overhauled in Japan, arrived in the northern city of Da Nang to help replace severe South Vietnamese armored losses in the battles in Quang Tri province.

While the highlands assault was the major combat action reported, President Nguyen Van Thieu flew to Hue to meet with military commanders preparing the defense of the old imperial capital.

Sixty miles north of Saigon, the battered provincial capital of An Loc was bombarded by more than 900 artillery shells.