

NYTimes
 Pray for Soviet Self-Restraint

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To the Editor:

Nothing could have indicated more clearly and convincingly the complete bankruptcy of the foreign policy of the present Administration than President Nixon's throwing caution to the winds by bombing Haiphong harbor and thus, in effect, blockading it in violation of a long-established and universally recognized principle of international law, namely, that ports may be legally blockaded only during an officially declared war and after due

The Russians' chief avenue for this purpose is the port of Haiphong, but since we are now using force, in violation of international law, to prevent their using this avenue, they have the right, in conformity with international law, to use force to keep this avenue open, and since they have not the force on the spot to achieve this, they may be tempted to use force elsewhere to accomplish this purpose.

In the interest of avoiding Armageddon, let us pray that their power of self-restraint is greater than that we have shown in our most recent attack of insanity.

HAROLD W. THATCHER
 Forty Fort, Pa., April 17, 1972



Klaus Abrechtsen

warning has been given to neutral nations.

By this action we have, in effect, placed ourselves at the mercy of the sense of self-restraint of those whom we, in the grip of our cold war paranoia, have so often proclaimed as our enemies, namely, the Communists. In the absence of a proclaimed state of war the Soviet Union has the same right to send supplies to the side which it favors in this nonexistent war as we have to supply our protégés during their process of Vietnamization.

See C.L. Sulzberger,
 this file 12 May 72,
 N.O. States-Item