

U.S. Has Mined Rivers And Canals in the North

Washington

The Pentagon disclosed yesterday that American planes have mined rivers and canals in North Vietnam.

A Pentagon spokesman said the same aerial operation that mined Haiphong and six other seaports last week also mined the Red river and other inland waterways.

While President Nixon's announcement of the mining a week ago mentioned inland waterways, yesterday's Pentagon comment was the first disclosure that the action had been carried out.

There were also these developments regarding the war in Indochina:

- Three wives of American prisoners of war said the President told them yesterday that the mines will

remain in North Vietnamese waters until the prisoners are released. The women met for 45 minutes with Mr. Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser for national security.

- Pentagon spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim said he had no new information on the movement of Soviet and other ships toward Haiphong harbor. Friedheim said one Chinese freighter, reported to be in that harbor, "apparently never was there," reducing to 27 the number still inside the mined entrance.

- Friedheim said the assistant secretary of defense for installations and logistics, Barry J. Shillito, reported to the Armed Forces Policy Council that the South Vietnamese army has "equipment available where needed and when needed."

Shillito and a team of logistics experts were sent to South Vietnam last week by Defense Secretary Melvin Laird to see if the South Vietnamese army needed more advanced equipment.

- Friedheim announced that Laird will leave for Europe this morning for a ten-day visit during which he will attend meetings of NATO planning groups in Copenhagen and Brussels.

Friedheim said the mining of the inland waterways was done to cut off movement of supplies within North Vietnam. "It is being done at river junctions and transshipment points," he said.

The three women who met with Mr. Nixon were Sybil E. Stockdale, wife of a Navy captain held prisoner since September, 1965; Phyllis E. Falanti, wife of a Navy lieutenant commander held prisoner since June, 1966, and Mrs. Joseph P. Dunn, wife of a Navy lieutenant missing in China since February, 1968.

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