

Massive Raids Over the North

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Saigon

American fighter-bombers returned to the Hanoi and Haiphong areas of North Vietnam yesterday as ground fighting on the southern front continued inconclusively.

U. S. military sources said Air Force and Navy jets made 600 attacks Sunday and yesterday against military targets from the demilitarized zone north toward the Chinese mainland in President Nixon's campaign to choke off war materiel destined for the fronts in South Vietnam.

The U.S. command disclosed today that raiding jets had knocked out the major electric station supplying power to the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

The coal-fed power station located about eight miles north of Hanoi's center was hit Sunday with electronically guided 2000-3000 pound bombs. No American planes were lost, a spokesman said.

North Vietnam claimed two U. S. planes were shot down yesterday.

LOSSES

The U.S. Command announced the loss of an F-4 Phantom on Sunday, about 45 miles north of the DMZ and another one yesterday during massive air raids along the northernmost front

about 30 miles below the buffer zone separating the two Vietnams. The four crewmen aboard the two planes were reported rescued.

The command has reported 90 aircraft, including 39 helicopters lost since the start of the North Vietnamese offensive more than seven weeks ago. Sixty-five American airmen have been killed, 23 wounded and 85 are missing, including 26 downed in the North.

HUE

North Vietnamese forces continued to battle government troops on the ground north of the former imperial capital of Hue and on the highway leading to the beleaguered provincial capital of An Loc, 60 miles north of Saigon.

The South Vietnamese ma-

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rine defense line along the My Chanh River, 20 miles north of Hue, was pushed back about three miles by North Vietnamese using Russian-built PT-76 amphibious tanks to cross the river. But massive bombardment by U.S. planes and ships halted the enemy advance and reports said the marines restored their original defense lines.

The Saigon command said today that more than 300 enemy were killed and 18 tanks destroyed. It reported government losses as "about 100 killed and wounded."

HIGHLANDS

In the Central Highlands, government spokesmen said a mixed armor-infantry, six-battalion force of South Vietnamese troops drove north from Pleiku in an attempt to clear the highway to Kontum, the virtually encircled provincial capital 25 miles to the north.

Field reports said heavy air attacks, including one by B-52s, were called in to attack suspected enemy posi-

tions just off the road and units of the road-clearing column followed the attacks in an attempt to drive the enemy back. Heavy enemy fire forced the Saigon troops to retreat back to the road.

In a separate incident, a government base between the two cities was attacked and its defenders forced out. The South Vietnamese troops reoccupied the position three hours later.

AN LOC

Around An Loc, persistent North Vietnamese thwarted for the fourth day the Saigon government's efforts to secure Highway 13 into the ruined town in order to rebuild its defenses and evacuate the wounded.

An Loc has been pounded incessantly for the past 46 days in the heaviest sustained enemy shelling of the war. The relief column, stalled throughout the early stages of the siege, pushed to within sight of the town last week before attacks against its advance element and flanks brought it to a halt.