

CHINA CALLS RAIDS THREAT TO BORDER

JUN 13 1972

Bombings in North Termed
Provocations—U.S. Cites
Limits on Operations

NYTimes

By Reuters

PEKING, June 12 — China condemned American bombing of North Vietnam today and for the first time since the intensification of the attacks described them as a threat to her security.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry expressed support for Hanoi and said the raids were acts of aggression against the Vietnamese people and "grave provocations against the Chinese people."

The statement was the strongest against United States actions in Vietnam since President Nixon's visit to Peking in February.

[In Washington, Administration officials said there were precise limits on United States air operations over North Vietnam in the vicinity of the Chinese border. They looked upon the Chinese statement principally as politically motivated support for North Vietnam and said they continued to believe that Peking accepted United States assurances of last month that the air strikes were not meant as a threat to Chinese security.]

American strikes have included attacks against two rail lines running from the Chinese border to Hanoi that have

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taken United States planes close to the border.

The statement was noticeably more terse than one issued on May 11, three days after President Nixon ordered the mining of North Vietnamese ports and air strikes on North Vietnamese supply and communications lines.

It said that the United States had "steadily expanded the sphere of bombing up to areas close to the Sino-Vietnamese borders, threatening the security of China."

"These frenzied acts of aggression on the part of U.S. imperialism," it said, "are new war crimes committed against the Vietnamese people, and at the same time grave provocations against the Chinese people."

The mention of America's actions in Vietnam as a threat to China has been absent from Peking statements since the invitation to President Nixon to visit Peking was announced last July.

The statement was similar in tone to denunciations of the United States in the early stages of the Vietnam war. It carried a clear warning to the United States that China was firmly behind North Vietnam, whatever tactics were employed, "until complete victory is won."

The statement concluded: "U.S. imperialism should know that the heroic peoples of Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries are by no means means alone in their struggle."

U.S. Cites Controls

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 12—Senior administration officials said today that computers and other navigational and bombing control systems made it unlikely that United States aircraft attacking North Vietnam would accidentally stray over Chinese territory.

Commenting on the charge by China's Foreign Ministry that intensive American bombings increasingly close to her territory were "threatening" Chinese security, the officials said that precise limits existed on United States operations near the border.

Officials at the Pentagon and the State Department declined to define these limits geographically, but they did not dispute the assumption here that the line runs about 25 miles south of the border. Last week United States aircraft were reported to have struck targets 20 miles from China.

Only in the event of dog-fights between American and Northvietnamese jets near the border would a serious danger arise of United States planes entering Chinese air space, officials said.

According to State Department records, today was the first time since 1968, the year that the earlier bombings of North Vietnam were halted that China protested American air activity near her borders as a threat to her security.

The protest followed increasingly angry denunciations in the Chinese press at United States actions in Southeast Asia since the heavy bombings began last month.

However, it was said, the Chinese Government last denounced an American action as a threat to Chinese security in 1971, when it protested against the American-supported South Vietnamese thrust into Laos.

The inclination in the Administration was to regard the Chinese protest today as principally politically motivated. The statement is designed, officials have said, to demonstrate Peking's support for Hanoi at a time when diplomatic reports tell of a rise in recriminations between China and the Soviet Union over their aid to North Vietnam.

Administration officials said they continued to believe that Peking accepts United States assurances, made on May 9, that the air strikes were not meant as a threat to Chinese security.