

Plea to World

Hanoi Renews Dike Charges

Paris

North Vietnam appealed to world opinion yesterday to halt what it called a "premeditated" effort by the United States to destroy its dike system and flood the country in the coming months.

Vo Van Sung, Hanoi's del-

egate general here, read a statement at a news conference that charged that from April 10 to June 10 the United States attacked dikes 68 times, dropping 665 bombs along the Red river and other waterways.

The statement asserted that 32 portions of dikes and 31 hydraulic works have been seriously damaged while a large number of civilians working on repairs and reinforcement of the dikes have been killed or wounded by anti-personnel bombs.

Sung charged that the American aim is to spread death and famine among the civilian population and lower its morale.

"The possible rupture of the dikes in North Vietnam during the season of cresting rivers would threaten millions of inhabitants and create the danger of submersion of hundreds of thousands of acres of cultivated land."

It was the second time in two days that the North Vietnamese called in the press to express concern about American military and diplomatic activity.

At the same time there has been nothing in the terms employed by North Vietnamese spokesman to suggest any softening of Hanoi's negotiating position as a result of the diplomatic and military pressure.

Sung said President Nixon is seeking "vengeance" for the failure of Vietnamization of the war in South Vietnam.

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