

22 Jul 72

from Jack Anderson column:

..... Manoi's views on the election were delivered to us by an emissary who met with the North Vietnamese [in Paris] three times for a total of four and one-half hours. For diplomatic reasons, we agreed to withhold the names of the participants.

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The North Vietnamese were particularly emotional over the alleged American bombing of the dikes, which they pleaded could lead to two million deaths from drowning and starvation.

We have seen secret Pentagon documents, which substantiate the U.S. claim that the Red River dikes and dams are off limits to our bombers. The documents indicate, however, that some flood-control installations have been hit accidentally, because of the close proximity of military targets.

The North Vietnamese explained to our emissary that they had bolstered the hillsides above the dams and dikes with trees, grass and underbrush. The torrential rains last year eroded these natural barriers. Thus, the U.S. bombs exploding near the dikes jar the weakened bulwarks and cause severe leaks.

Some roads also run directly on top of dikes, and U.S. attacks on the military traffic have blown holes in the dikes, they said. A combination of air raids, defoliation and artificial rain-making, they feared, could turn their flood-control system into a huge mudslide.

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