

# Hanoi Voice Is Heard, U.S. Admits

The White House acknowledged yesterday that North Vietnam is achieving "some success" in spreading charges around the world that the United States is deliberately bombing its dikes.

"Without question there is a propaganda effort that they are working very hard on and with some success," said press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler. He again denied that the United States is "purposely undertaking a policy of bombing the dikes," as North Vietnam charges.

"Our bombing policy has been spelled out," said Ziegler: "We have never had a policy of bombing dams and dikes. We have a policy of not hitting dams and dikes."

Ziegler was responding to newsmen's questions about the unusually sharp language used the day before in a statement by Secretary of State William P. Rogers criticizing comments made by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The U.N. chief had said he received information through private channels, that American air attacks on North Vietnam are hitting dikes. Rogers replied that all claims that the United States is engaged in "deliberate bombing" of dikes are "false."

At the Defense Department yesterday, spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim also assailed what he called "Hanoi's propaganda campaign." He repeated that U.S. bombing is directed only against "military targets." When reporters asked if American planes fire at targets on dikes, Friedheim replied. "If a U.S. plane is attacked it will respond to protect itself."

On July 17, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird said, "There are occasions . . . when a dam or dike could possibly be hit when an anti-aircraft installation is placed on a dam or dike or when there is a roadway or a bridgework that is also tied in with a dam or dike formation." But Laird said there is "no targeting of dikes or dams in North Vietnam."