

2 Assert U.S. Bombs Civilians

Hospitals and Schools Hit

By Morton Kondracke

WASHINGTON — (CST) — A Senate subcommittee has heard new assertions that the United States is using antipersonnel bombs to attack civilian targets in North Vietnam. The administration declined invitations to rebut the charges, angering committee chairman Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Two witnesses representing separate missions to North Vietnam told Kennedy's Senate Subcommittee on Refugees yesterday that they had seen results of recent U.S. bombings of hospitals, schools and housing projects.

Both corroborated charges of attacks on civilians levelled before the committee on Wednesday by former Attorney Gen. Ramsey Clark, who returned from the North amid harsh administration criticism this week.

One witness, John A. Sullivan of Philadelphia, associate executive director of the American Friends Service Committee, also supported Clark's charges that North Vietnam's vital dike system has been hit, but he, like Clark, said he could not say the attacks were intentional.

Raid Denied

A member of another group that toured the North, Dr. William Zimmerman, said that on May 23 he was in the city of Nam Dinh during a raid which he said the Pentagon has denied making.

According to Zimmerman, a psychologist working for Medical Aid for Indochina, an antiwar group, he and four American companions were "in the center of town at our hotel, in a shelter under the hotel, and the bombs dropped on top of us.

"Afterwards we came out and we slept that night in rooms that had holes in the ceilings. In the yard of the hotel, we saw undetonated fragmentation bombs and the North Vietnamese were defusing them.

"We filmed them pulling these bombs out of the ground. They were Honeywell 'Rockeyes' and you could see the 'Honeywell' markings on them.

Bomb Shelters

"These bombs used to be used as antitank weapons, but penetrate the shells of tanks. Now, we were told, they are used to penetrate the walls of bomb shelters. Otherwise, they stick in the ground and spray hundreds of fragments in all directions."

Zimmerman showed the committee films that he said he took in the hotel courtyard and at another town, Phuc Loc, said to have been demolished on April 16 by U.S. B-52s.

Sullivan, meanwhile, testified that during his week-long trip to North Vietnam in July, he had seen Bach Mai hospital, hit June 27. This is a 1200-bed hospital, said to be Hanoi's largest, which the director says is functioning, though the bomb damage harmed the hospital's capability.

In response to a reporters' inquiry, a Pentagon spokesman read from an information sheet which said that the "Rockeye" bomb was a Navy weapon designed for "antitank and antivehicle" purposes.

Military Ones

The spokesman added that "over-all, our policy is that we do not hit civilian targets, only military ones."

Neither the Pentagon nor the State Department said why they turned down invitations from Kennedy to testify before the committee.

Kennedy commented that he "deeply regretted" that they had refused. "We hoped to create as broad a record as possible regarding civilian problems in North Vietnam."