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## 'Bombing May Go On For Years' SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (AP) — High Air Force officials believe North Vietnam still is importing considerable amounts of vital military supplies despite the U.S. bombing, and say American involvement in the war could last several more years.

These officials estimate that anywhere from 25 to 50 percent of the North's petroleum, ammunition and other war goods — compared with pre-bombing amounts — are getting past the American bombing and mine blockade.

They said it is enough to sustain, on a limited basis at least, Hanoi's war effort.

And, they say, it is conceivable that if efforts to negotiate a settlement to the war fail, the American bombing from bases in Thailand and Navy aircraft carriers could last for some time, possibly for three or more years.

At today's Pentagon briefing for reporters Defense Department spokesman Jerry Friedheim disputed the supply estimates. He described the flow of supplies into North Vietnam as "minimal" and said it was impossible to make any precise estimate. However, he said at one point that 25 percent was too high.

Although the Pentagon never has asserted that the bombing would shut off the flow of war goods to North Vietnam, administration and military officials have claimed that the flow had been reduced to a trickle.

It was stated in last night's assessment that the amount of supplies reaching Communist forces in the South has been drastically curtailed.