

Hanoi Hits

U.S. Phony

Money Ploy

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TOKYO — (UPI) — Hanoi today accused the United States of smuggling counterfeit money into North Vietnam to upset its monetary system.

A broadcast statement by the Communist Vietnam National Bank said, "The smuggling of counterfeit currency by the Nixon administration is a wicked and cowardly act designed to upset the financial and monetary system and the economic life of the D.R.V.N., and also to boost the psychological war against the Vietnamese people."

Military sources in Saigon last month said the United States was dropping counterfeit money from airplanes over North Vietnam.

The U.S. Embassy admitted the drops at the time, but said the fake money was discernible as being different from the regular North Vietnamese currency.

The spokesmen refused to say just how it differed, however, and also refused to produce samples of the "propaganda leaflets" that looked like money.

One source who claimed to have seen the fake money said it looked exactly like North Vietnamese currency.

A propaganda message was attached to each bill with a tiny spot of glue and was easily pulled off the counterfeit currency, the source said.

If the "money" was obviously counterfeit, why was the propaganda message attached in such a way that it could be removed?