

U.S. Jets Hit North, Avoid Hanoi

ALSO FILED POMS

Saigon

United States planes attacked North Vietnam again yesterday but reportedly there were new restrictions on raids in the vicinity of Hanoi because of the heavy damage done there Wednesday to the French diplomatic mission.

United States command sources confirmed that the air attacks were continuing despite the international furor caused by damage to the French, Algerian and Indian missions during a bombing raid Wednesday.

The targets of yesterday's raids will not be disclosed until today. The U.S. command refused to say whether any were in the Hanoi area.

BUFFER

Reports in Saigon said a buffer zone has now been placed around Hanoi by the U.S. command. It was understood that all potential targets in the immediate Hanoi area will require clearance from the Nixon administration.

Viet Ranger Base Hit

Saigon

North Vietnamese forces fired 1000 shells into a border camp in the Central Highlands, then launched a large - scale ground attack against the base, the Saigon command reported today.

Reports reaching Saigon said heavy fighting raged

through the night at the Ben Het base camp manned by South Vietnamese rangers. The camp lies 30 miles northwest of Kontum, just east of the region where the borders of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia converge.

Associated Press

The new rules were imposed only two weeks after U.S. commanders had been given permission to intensify their air attacks against the North and to include targets never hit before, American sources reported.

While conceding that Navy planes from the carrier Midway attacked targets on the fringe of Hanoi, the U.S. command has implied that damage to the foreign missions may have been caused by enemy anti-aircraft missiles.

Initial operational reports from Navy pilots indicate all their bombs were on target, engulfing the Gia Lam railroad and auto repair facilities with explosions, smoke and fire, U.S. officials reported.

"The whole matter is being looked at very strongly and the Navy is trying to get pilot interviews of results," said a U.S. military spokesman.

TARGET

He reported six anti-aircraft missiles were fired at

the Navy raiders. The command has said the missiles may have impacted on the ground after missing the American jets.

The wards are across the Red river and about two miles from Hanoi.

FRAGMENTS

Michael Maclear, a Canadian correspondent, reported from Hanoi that he had seen two bomb craters at the French mission, and the evidence was "overwhelming" that it had been hit by bombs.

"Virtually no diplomats here believe the stray-missile story theory," he added.

President Nixon sent a message to President Georges Pompidou of France expressing regret at damage to the French mission headquarters and the injury to French delegate-general Pierre Susini.

The Indian government protested in New Delhi to the U.S. charge d'affaires, Galen B. Stone, against damage to its mission in Hanoi.

Associated Press