

Second Day Of Bombing Panhandle

Saigon

American planes dropped tons of bombs on the southern panhandle of North Vietnam yesterday in the second consecutive day of heavy raids over the area.

Radio Hanoi termed the raids "frenzied and criminal acts of war of the Nixon administration" that "shed more light on the obdurate, bellicose and brutal nature of the U.S. imperialists who intend to use bombs and shells to threaten the Vietnamese people and force them to accept their absurd terms" for a peaceful settlement of the war.

The U.S. Command said Air Force B-52s flew 42 raids over the panhandle from the port city of Vinh south to the demarcation line.

TARGETS

At the same time, the command said tactical fighter-bombers flew 144 raids over the area. Equipment and food storage areas and roads leading south to South Vietnam were the targets, the command said.

Fifty-one B-52 raids and 187 tactical air raids were flown in South Vietnam, the command added, from Quang Tri Province in the North to Chuong Thien Province in the southern Mekong Delta. Some of the attacks were in support of South Vietnamese ground units, others were against known or suspected Communist targets.

While the U.S. air raids continued at a high rate, the number of ground attacks made by the North Vietnamese in South Vietnam dropped. The Saigon command said there were 54 such incidents in the 24-hour period ending at dawn yesterday—the lowest number since the New Year's Eve truce.

Associated Press