

# B-52s Attack in South-- Red Troop Sites Bombed

## Saigon

U.S. B-52s dropped tons of bombs on Communist troop locations between the old Michelin and Lai Khe rubber plantations only 40 miles northwest of Saigon, a U.S. command spokesman said yesterday.

Forty-two B-52 attacks were flown against the traditional Communist staging area during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. Several secondary explosions were reported, the spokesman added.

It marked the second time in the last two months that the eight-jet strategic bombers blasted the area, which, since last spring, has largely been controlled by the North Vietnamese.

## AREA

The bombing follows reports that the North Vietnamese are attempting to

move heavy artillery and possibly tanks across the Cambodian border into South Vietnam, just north of the raid area.

In the same area, South Vietnamese planes destroyed four North Vietnamese tanks along the Saigon river corridor within 40 miles of this capital city—the closest that enemy tanks have ever been reported — military headquarters announced.

Lieutenant Colonel Le Trung Hien, chief spokesman for the South Vietnamese military command, said also that four trucks were destroyed in the area.

Hien said he did not know the type of tanks that were knocked out. He said they were not attacking at the time.

U.S. B-52s and tactical fighter - bombers also continued to hammer away at enemy targets in the south-

ern panhandle of North Vietnam.

B-52s logged 36 raids north of the demarcation line, while the smaller tactical fighter - bombers flew an additional 115 in the 24-hour period, the U.S. command said.

## TARGETS

Targets, mainly supply centers, ranged from two miles south of the port city of Vinh to the demilitarized zone itself. Fifteen B-52 raids were directed at roads leading to the Mu Gia Pass, which is linked with the Ho Chi Minh trail.

In another development, military sources reported strict security measures were in effect at "Pentagon East," the U.S. military headquarters at Tan Son Nhut airbase.

The sources said the steps were taken on the basis of intelligence reports that indicated Communist terrorists were intent on bombing the headquarters in retaliation for U.S. bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong last month.

*Associated Press*