

## B-52'S AGAIN BOMB AREA NEAR SAIGON

Attempt by Enemy to Move Artillery Is Reported

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Saturday, Jan. 13 (AP)—Traditional enemy staging areas northwest of Saigon were heavily bombed yesterday by United States B-52 bombers.

The United States command said that 14 formations—each presumably consisting of three B-52's—were sent over targets between the old Michelin and Lai Khe rubber plantations, only 40 miles from the capital, in the 24 hours ended at 8 A.M.

The raids followed reports that the North Vietnamese were attempting to move heavy artillery and possibly tanks across the Cambodian border into South Vietnam just north of the strike area.

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

### More Raids Over Panhandle

The United States bombing campaign continued against the southern panhandle of North Vietnam, with 12 B-52 missions and 115 fighter-bomber strikes reported in the 24-hour period.

Targets, mainly supply centers, ranged from two miles south of the port city of Vinh to the demilitarized zone itself. Five B-52 missions were reportedly directed at roads leading to the Mu Gia Pass, which is linked with the Ho Chi Minh Trail leading through Laos to South Vietnam.

In a delayed report, United States spokesmen said that an Air Force A-7 bomber crashed in northeastern Thailand Thursday night. The pilot bailed out and was later rescued, they said. The cause of the crash was not known.

In the ground war, South Vietnamese officials reported 62 enemy attacks, mostly shelling in South Vietnam in the 24 hours ended at dawn.



The New York Times/Jan. 13, 1973  
**U.S. B-52's bombed areas northwest of Saigon (1). In Cambodia, foe cut the Mekong River supply route near Neak Luong (2). In North Vietnam, Vinh area (3) was among targets of U.S. air raids.**

### Cambodian Route Cut

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Jan. 12 (UPI)—Military sources reported today that Communist forces had cut a vital Phnom Penh supply route, the Mekong River, along which convoys have moved from South Vietnam.

According to Col. Thach Chan, commander of the Government forces at the naval base of Neak Luong, 32 miles southeast of the capital, the Communists captured nine Government positions along a 12-mile stretch of the Mekong just south of Neak Luong before dawn today.

With most major routes either occupied by Communist troops or made insecure by frequent attacks, river convoys up the Mekong have become essential for the provisioning of Phnom Penh.