

Cambodian Bomb Total Disclosed

American B-52 bombers dropped about 104,000 tons of explosives on Communist sanctuaries in neutralist Cambodia during a series of raids in 1969 and 1970 that were later disguised as attacks in South Vietnam, the Pentagon said yesterday.

Disclosure of the average monthly bomb tonnage of 7,000 in Cambodia came in revised statistics sent by the Pentagon to Sen. Harold E. Hughes (D-Iowa) and other members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Hughes had complained that the Defense Department "deliberately lied" in its reports of Indochina air operations, which showed no B-52 raids in Cambodia for every month up to May, 1970.

Jerry W. Friedheim, assistant defense secretary for public affairs, said there were 3,630 B-52 bombing sorties against six sanctuaries along the Cambodian border between March, 1969, and April 30, 1970.

The secret bombing was acknowledged by the Pentagon Monday after a former Air Force major, Hal M. Knight, described how he falsified reports on Cambodian air operations and destroyed records on the bombing missions actually flown.

The new statistics show that the bombing started with 48 B-52 raids in March, 1969, peaked at 407 in September and then dropped to the mid-300s through April, 1970.