

# U.S. Steps Up Bombing

## Phnom Penh

U.S. planes, pushing their attacks to the highest level in a month, attacked suspected positions of Communist-led insurgents yesterday in an area 1½ miles from Phnom Penh airport.

The attacks were to cut off the escape of infiltrators who blew up the capital's international radio transmission station Tuesday night, or to smash possible troop buildups around the city.

At daybreak yesterday, Thailand-based F-4 phantom jets began attacks 1½ miles

from the airport. Airliners continued to take off and land during the tactical attacks.

Passengers at the terminal could see black smoke billowing up from the attack area. The daylong bombing jarred Phnom Penh seven miles away.

(In Washington, the Pentagon said that U.S. bombing is at its highest level in a month because of increased pressure by rebel forces.)

A Pentagon spokesman gave no specific figures but said the number of single B-52 missions rose from 40 a

day to about 50 a day and that the number of fighter-bomber missions was higher than the 200 - a - day average of recent weeks.

Scattered fighting was reported around Phnom Penh yesterday.

A battle to the northeast at Siem Reap, near the ancient ruins of Angkor Wat, killed six insurgents and wounded five government soldiers, the Cambodian command said.

The Angkor Wat ruins have been held by insurgent forces for three years.

In Phnom Penh, a convoy

of about 150 trucks and trailers laden with food and other supplies arrived along Highway 4 from the seaport of Kompong Som.

At Neak Luong, newsmen were allowed to pay a 30-minute visit to the Mekong River garrison town hit Monday in a U.S. bombing error that left at least 137 persons dead and 268 wounded. The newsmen reported two-thirds of the town of about 10,000 residents mostly servicemen and their families, was destroyed or damaged.

*Associated Press*