

'Illegal Raids Photographed'

Washington

Representative Otis G. Pike (Dem-N.Y.) said yesterday he has reason to believe that reconnaissance photographs of most of Major General John D. Lavelle's unauthorized bombing missions over North Vietnam were available to the military chain of command.

"I believe that photographs were taken of every target or at least most of the targets that General Lavelle ever hit," Pike said in an interview. The photographs were then "forwarded up the chain of command to

higher echelons," he said.

"If nobody looked at them," Pike added caustically, "then we're sure wasting a hell of a lot of taxpayer's money taking pictures out there."

Pike, the sixth-ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, first became involved with the Lavelle case in April, when he began raising questions about the Air Force's retirement of Lavelle, then a four-star general. At the time, an official statement said only that Lavelle had retired for "personal" reasons.

A Senate Armed Services

Committee investigation into the matter has shown that most of the official reports on the unauthorized missions were falsified, presumably making it difficult for higher headquarters to learn what was going on.

But the Senate testimony, released last week, also shows that Lavelle's pilots were planning and then attacking such unauthorized military targets as oil stockpiles and truck depots. Reconnaissance photographs of those strikes would be evidence, Pike said, that unauthorized bombings had been conducted.

N.Y. Times Service