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One Theory On Bombing Of Haiphong

SFChronicle

Former Undersecretary of Defense David Packard dropped a broad hint yesterday that Chinese leaders may approve of the administration's decision to bomb Hanoi and Haiphong.

"There is an interesting twist to the recent bombing which you never see mentioned in the papers," Packard said.

"The People's Republic of China is greatly concerned about the danger of Soviet encirclement. Recent Soviet successes in India have hardly quelled Chinese fears, and the thought of Soviet domination of Southeast Asia is anathema.

"While I cannot speak forthrightly on this sensitive subject, let me pose this question: If you were a top Peking official today, and you saw the Soviet Union guiding a bold North Vietnamese move to seize all of Southeast Asia, how would you feel about U.S. bombing of Soviet supplies?"

DINNER

Packard told guests at a fund-raising dinner sponsored by the San Mateo County Republican Central Committee at the Villa Hotel that he believed the nation needs "another four years of Richard Nixon in the White House" to preserve national security.

"Vietnam is only one facet of the President's important and exciting new foreign policy," Packard said.

That policy, Packard continued, consists of three steps: (1) requiring American allies to carry a larger share of the bill for security, (2) negotiating to reduce the points of friction and (3) maintaining a strong defense establishment.

"If the Congress supports the defense programs we have included in the budget (for the 12 months starting July 1), America will have the military strength to support the Nixon Doctrine throughout the decade of the 1970s and on into the 1980s," Packard said.

He accused Democratic leaders Hubert H. Humphrey, George S. McGovern, Edmund S. Muskie and Edward M. Kennedy of showing "irresponsibility" in defense and foreign policy matters.

DOMESTIC

Packard, a Peninsula electronics executive, also attacked Democratic domestic policies.

"Look at the current fuss from the Democrats about 'closing tax loopholes,'" Packard said.

"While this sounds very nice, it boils down to just another plan to tax the individuals and companies who are the economic mainstay of this country . . . The eloquent Democratic politician never gives this 'common man' the only one thing he really wants — lower taxes."

The problem, Packard said, is that federal involvement has grown too deep in American's daily lives.

"We are taken care of and looked after from the cradle to the grave," Packard said.

"If we are old, we have Social Security. If we are sick, we have Medicare. And now even the air we breathe and the water we drink will be legislated by the Congress."