

HANOI SAYS DMZ IS NOT A BORDER

MAY 2 1972

Radio Asserts Crossings Are
Not Invasions

NYTimes

HONG KONG, May 1, (AP)

—The official North Vietnamese radio declared today that the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam was not an international border and that movement of tanks, artillery and troops across it did not constitute invasion.

"South and North Vietnam are simply two zones of a unified Vietnam territory," the broadcast, monitored here, said. "There is no international border between them, and all Vietnamese have the right and duty to defend Vietnam against the aggressor who came 10,000 miles across the ocean to invade our land."

North Vietnam and the Vietcong in South Vietnam usually deny that North Vietnamese troops or weapons are in South Vietnam.

Response to Nixon

Replying to President Nixon's statement that North Vietnamese tanks and artillery were swarming across the northern areas of South Vietnam, the Hanoi radio said: "Nobody has the right to decide what weapons are used or where the Vietnamese fight against the United States aggressors, who brought all kinds of weapons and modern war material across 10,000 miles of ocean to invade our land."

Hanoi also charged that United States planes struck "populated areas" in North Vietnam yesterday. It said Communist gunners shot down two of them.

The official press agency broadcast a Foreign Ministry statement condemning the strikes, which it said hit Quangbinh and HaTinh, the provinces closest to the demilitarized zone.

The statement reported American airmen killed but gave no further details. It also made no mention of civilian casualties.

It said United States ships shelled "many coastal villages" in the Thaibinh Province.