

MAY 10 1972
U.S. IN WIDE RAIDS

200 Planes Hit Rail and Road Links and Attack the Ports
 NYTimes

By **CRAIG R. WHITNEY**
 Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Wednesday, May 10—Two hundred United States fighter-bombers ranged over North Vietnam yesterday from the demilitarized zone to Hanoi in a heavy bombing and mine-laying campaign aimed at cutting road and rail links with China and blocking the ports.

The air operations were challenged by North Vietnamese MIG's and one was shot down, the United States command reported, but it divulged no further details.

[A Hanoi broadcast said two United States destroyers were set afire by coastal artillery while they shelled the port of Haiphong, The Associated Press reported. There was no confirmation of the report from the United States command in Saigon.]

The mining began at 9 A.M. yesterday, Saigon time, just as President Nixon, speaking on radio and television from the White House in Washington, was announcing new measures to prevent the flow of military supplies to the North Vietnamese.

Mines Are Self-Arming

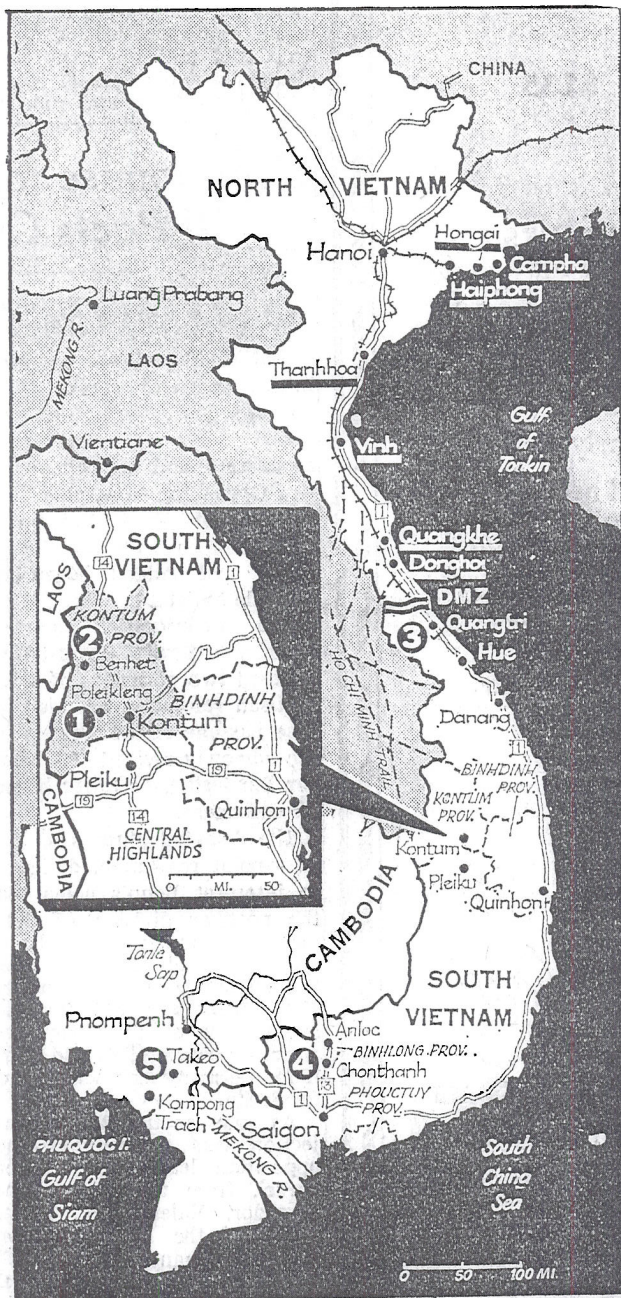
The mines, set to arm themselves at 6 P.M. Thursday [6 A.M. Thursday, New York time], were dropped by Navy planes at the entrances to the principal North Vietnamese ports. Mr. Nixon had said ships of other countries in the harbors, most of them Russian, would have three daylight periods in which to leave safely.

Haiphong, 60 miles southeast of Hanoi, is the main North Vietnamese port. Others are Thanhhoa, Hongai, Campha, Vinh Donghoi and Quangkhe.

The United States command gave no details on the mining operations for what it termed reasons of security and also apparently as a result of policy decisions made in Washington.

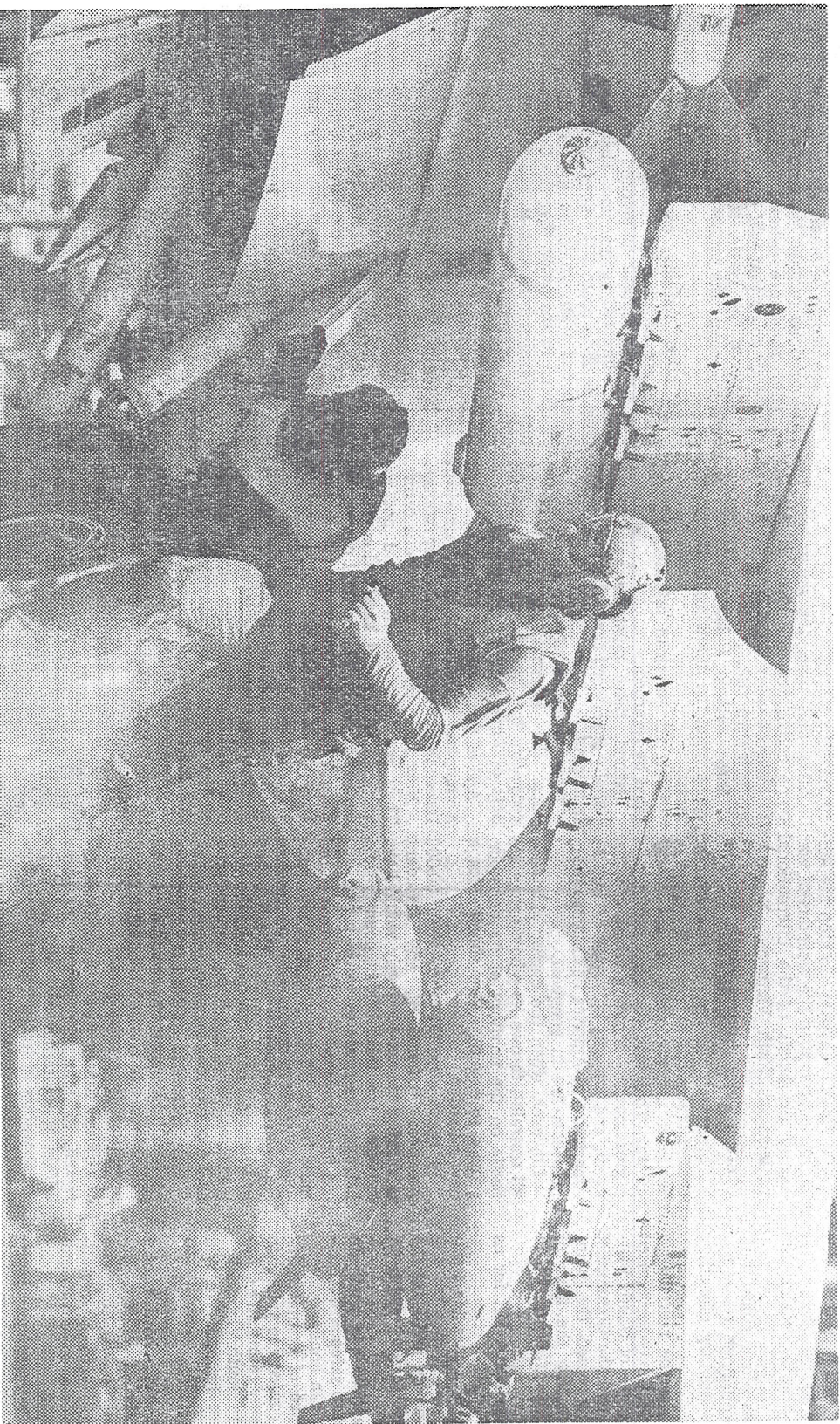
Before the new campaign began, the United States com-

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The New York Times/May 10, 1972
 Underlining marks mined ports in North Vietnam. In the south, foe overran post at Poleikleng (1 on inset) and stormed into Benhe (2). U.S. jets pounded enemy units near Hue (3). Besiegers of Anloc (4) attacked relief column. Cambodian troops lost two towns near Takeo (5).

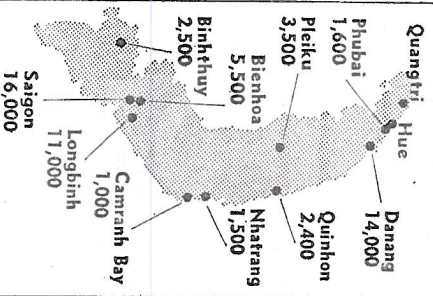
**NIXON HOPES HIS VIETNAM MOVE
 WON'T PREVENT TRIP TO MOSCOW;
 HANOI AIDES REJECT ULTIMATUM**



United Press International

READY FOR A STRIKE: A plane aboard the carrier Constellation prepared to take off for raid against North Vietnamese installations and supply links in Vietnam Are

Where U.S. Troops



mand said its planes had made more than a thousand strikes in North Vietnam between 6 P.M. last Wednesday and 5 P.M. Monday. The level of bombing in North Vietnam now appears to be roughly equal to what it was at the height of the air war in 1967 and 1968.

[Attacks on the North Vietnamese railways may have begun even before Mr. Nixon's speech, United States sources quoted by United Press International said. They noted that United States jets shot down two MIG's 23 hours in advance of the speech at a point 70 miles northwest of Hanoi. One rail line from China enters North Vietnam from the northwest, the other from the northeast.]

In addition to the bombing, a large force of cruisers and destroyers has been firing at North Vietnamese coastal defense sites, bridges, ammunition storage areas and naval installations.

The Communist offensive in South Vietnam, meanwhile, continued on three fronts yesterday, but most intensively in the Central Highlands province of Kontum, where Government forces lost a border camp and beat back a heavy attack in another.

Tanks Support Infantry

The North Vietnamese, attacking with tanks and infantry, drove Government rangers out of the camp at Polei Kleng, fourteen miles west of Kontum early yesterday, and pushed into the Benhet camp, farther west, with 10 tanks before they were driven back.

Route 14 from Kontum south to Pleiku remained cut at several points, and a determined push on the provincial capital was expected soon. Air Force B-52's flew 11 missions averaging three planes apiece over the hills northwest, southwest and east of Kontum in an effort to prevent it.

More heavy bombardment by B-52's tactical fighter-bombers, artillery and naval guns saturated a large area along the border of captured Quangtri province, on the northern front, yesterday in an effort to ruin North Vietnamese plans for an attack on the major provincial capital of Hue.

Intelligence sources agreed that the lack of significant military activity on the northern front since the South Vietnamese gave up Quantri Province early last week was only a lull before a determined push on Hue.

Both Sides Repositioning

In the interim the South Vietnamese are sending thousands of reinforcements to Hue, some of them from the threatened Central Highlands front.

The North Vietnamese are thought to be moving their long-range 130-mm. artillery and regrouping their attacking forces from the 304th and 308th Infantry Divisions.

The B-52's also flew five raids over the mountains southwest of Hue in the 24 hours ended at noon yesterday in an effort to hit North Vietnamese forces threatening the capital from that direction.

As for the third front, in

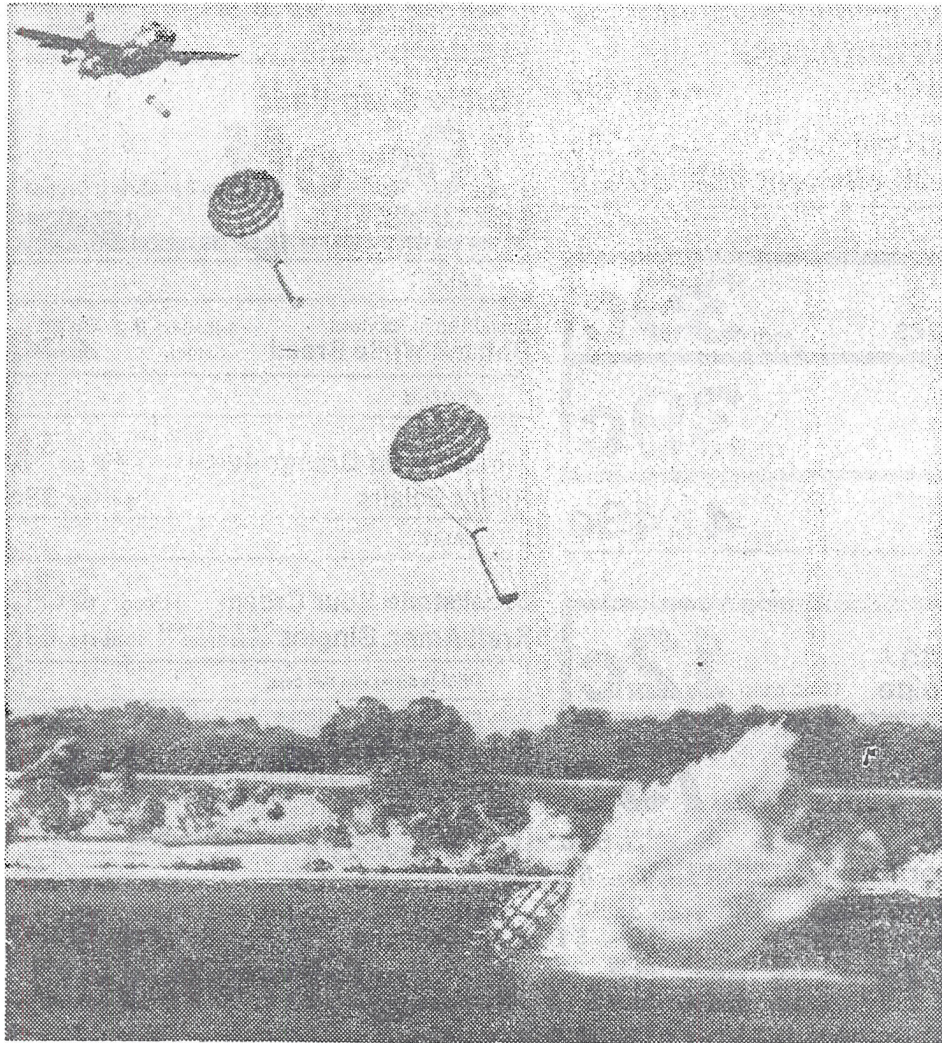
Binhlong Province 60 miles north of Saigon, where the now-ruined city of Anloc has been under siege for a month, the Saigon high command said that its relief forces, which have been trying to move north on Route 13 to break into the encircle town since mid-April, came under shelling and ground attack yesterday north of Chon-thanh, but no details were available.

A large-scale attack on a district headquarters in Phuoc Tuy Province southeast of Saigon was reported to have taken place early Monday. The Saigon command said that 45 enemy soldiers were killed in an unsuccessful attempt to overrun the installation at Duc-thanh.

Cambodian Positions Lost

PNOM PENH, Cambodia, May 9 (UPI)—The military command today announced the fall of two more Government positions in the southern provinces, bringing to six the number lost in three days of fighting.

The positions are in Takeo Province about 24 miles from the South Vietnamese border.



Associated Press

AERIAL MINE PLACEMENT TECHNIQUE: A 1958 U.S. Navy composite photo showed how mine was dropped from aircraft. Parachute slowed drop before impact with water.