

Aspin Claims Envoy Lied On Arms Aid to Indochina

Washington

Russia and Chinese arms shipments to North Vietnam fell sharply in 1973 and United States military aid to Indochina ran at eight times the Communist bloc rate, according to a new defense estimate made public by Representative Les Aspin (D-Wis.) yesterday.

Aspin said the figures from the Defense Intelligence Agency "put the lie" to recent claims by United States Ambassador to South Vietnam Graham Martin and other administration spokesmen that the U.S. was merely attempting to match Russian and Chinese shipments to Hanoi.

Aspin made the figures public just before the 1975 arms budget debate begins in the Senate.

The new aid estimate, signed by Vice Admiral V.P. De Poix, the DIA director, gave a "preliminary" figure of \$290 million in Commun-

ist bloc arms shipments to Hanoi during calendar year 1973.

In the same period the U.S. shipped \$2.3 billion worth of military aid to Indochina, the bulk of it to South Vietnam but with a substantial share to Cambodia. In addition, the U.S. spent just under \$3 billion for its own direct involvement in the war, mostly in the bombing of Cambodia that ended last August 15.

The DIA estimate showed that while Moscow and Peking cut arms shipments by more than half in 1973 from a 1972 figure of \$605 million, U.S. arms shipments increased by \$286 million from 1972 to 1973.

During the entire war, Aspin said, DIA estimates show that U.S. spent 29

times as much as the Soviets and Chinese together.

Citing a recent statement by Martin that "our intention all along was to balance the aid being given the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China to North Vietnam," Aspin said the DIA statistics "make it clear that contrary to Administration propaganda there was only one superpower that sank billions and billions of dollars in the Vietnam battle, and that was the United States."

United Press