

Hanoi Confirms P.O.W. Raid; Emphasizes Bombing by U.S.

HANOI, North Vietnam, Nov. 25, (Agence France-Presse) — The Hanoi press confirmed today that a United States attempt to free prisoners of war took place last weekend.

The confirmation appeared briefly in a lengthy commentary in the party newspaper Nhan Dan. North Vietnamese officials remain silent when asked about the raid.

The Nhan Dan commentary emphasized the weekend bombings that followed the rescue attempt, describing them as an "extremely grave act of war."

"The Nixon Administration," the commentary said, "also rashly organized attacks of pirate commandos deep inside our country's territory."

The coverage of the weekend events in the controlled North Vietnamese press confirmed observers' impressions that Hanoi did not want publicity about the commando raid to obscure the fact that the United States had resumed bombings.

The United States has said that the bombings on Saturday and Sunday were designed to knock out antiaircraft sites that might endanger reconnaissance planes over North Vietnam and pilots carrying out missions over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos.

The Nhan Dan commentary, quoting Western press agencies, said the bombings had been prepared in advance and approved by President Nixon last Thursday at a National Security Council meeting.

The newspaper noted that, according to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, only antiaircraft batteries south of the 19th parallel had been

bombed. It insisted that populated regions as far as the outskirts of Hanoi, considerably north of the 19th parallel, had been attacked.

Laird Accused of Lying

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Nov. 25 — The North Vietnamese delegation here today accused Secretary Laird of having lied in his comments on United States air activities over North Vietnam last weekend.

Mr. Laird, in discussing raids against antiaircraft and radar installations, said on Saturday that the target area was south of the 19th parallel. On Monday, in disclosing diversionary raids farther north, designed to mask the attempt to free prisoners of war, he said the planes dropped mainly flares and did a "minimum of firing."

Responding to his suggestion that casualties in the Hanoi-Haiphong area on Saturday might have been caused by North Vietnamese missiles that fell back to the ground, the Hanoi delegation said:

"We wonder then why the 'North Vietnamese missiles' are of the Shrike type [a United States air-to-surface antiradar missile], one of which bears the number SK42L and another the number SK51L. Let Mr. Laird answer these questions?"

Pravda Assails Attempt

MOSCOW, Nov. 25 (AP)—Pravda said today that the United States attempt to free prisoners of war near Hanoi was the first step toward "spreading the land war into the territory of North Vietnam."