

**Commando Aid**

**Pentagon Says  
Planes in Raids  
Near Hanoi**

*N. Y. Times Service*

Washington

The Defense Department acknowledged yesterday that United States aircraft struck military targets near Hanoi last Saturday as "protective action" during the landing of the commandos who sought to liberate American prisoners of war at the Son Tay compound.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Daniel Z. Henkin said that the American planes, flying cover for the helicopters carrying the commandos to Son Tay from Thailand, used "appropriate ordnance" in protective attacks.

He said the planes hit anti-aircraft missile and artillery positions and troop units in the vicinity of the compound.

Henkin refused to describe the "ordnance."

He told newsmen: "I would not say flatly that no bombs were dropped in the area."

**MISSILES**

Later in the day, the Defense Department announced that American air forces had hit the

the Ad-  
steadfastly  
attacks north  
parallel, which  
miles below the Ha-  
nong region, and  
it secret for over two  
s that the commandos  
had gone into Son Tay.

North Vietnam had insisted from the outset, however, that American planes had bombed the capital area during the larger attacks last Saturday and Sunday, killing 49 civilians and wounding some U.S. prisoners of war at a nearby location.

Henkin's comments and the Defense Department announcement later appeared to explain the North Vietnamese charges that shrike rockets were found near Hanoi.

"There were some anti-aircraft installations in the area, which we knew about, and there were some troops in the area, which we knew about," he said.

**ATTACK**

The Los Angeles Times reported, however, that it had learned that the attacks to which Henkin referred occurred over an area that included points several miles distant from Son Tay.

In addition, it was learned that shrike missiles, which home on operating radar installations, were used against anti-aircraft missile installations ranging from Son Tay to the Gulf of Tonkin, some hundred miles downstream from the prison camp.

In all, about a dozen installations were hit, according to Pentagon sources whose information tended to verify complaints from the North Vietnamese about wide-scale air raids throughout North Vietnam over the weekend.