

The U.S. command in Saigon announced late today that American fighter-bombers attacked three surface-to-air missile sites inside North Vietnam today. The command said that the fighter-bombers were escorting B-52 heavy bombers on a raid over Laos when they detected that they were being tracked by North Vietnamese radar. The fighter-bombers then fired missiles at three North Vietnamese missile positions. The sites attacked were in the Mugia Pass about 80 miles north of the Demilitarized Zone and in the Ban Karai [spelling?] Pass 30 miles north of the DMZ. The U.S. command said that the North Vietnamese did not fire any missiles at the American planes.

Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird has said that he has ordered that American planes should attack any North Vietnamese missile site as soon as it turns on its radar to track American planes, even if no missiles have been fired. There have been five such attacks in the past week.