

New Orleans States-Item POWs
[] filed Nix Ad (Lavelle)
15 Jun 72

file 8 Nov 71

From column by James Reston:

" As [Gen.] Lavelle saw it, the men under him were obliged to carry out his orders, but he felt free to defy, or 'interpret' the orders of his commander-in-chief, the President, and his other superiors, as he pleased - not knowing, incidentally, that precisely* at the time he started the bombing, the President had Henry Kissinger trying to open up peace negotiations with Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam in Paris."

*See memo on dates of private U.S.-Vietnamese meetings, as given by Nixon and Kissinger, 26 Jan 72, filed ~~Nix Ad 27 Jan 72~~. with other memos on POWs.