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# U.S. Discloses Mining of Canals in North

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WASHINGTON, May 15—The Pentagon disclosed today that the mined waterways in North Vietnam included rivers and canals.

A Pentagon spokesman said that the same aerial operation that had mined Haiphong and six other seaports had also mined the Red River and other inland waterways.

While President Nixon's announcement of the mining a week ago mentioned inland waterway today's Pentagons, comment was the first disclosure that the action had been carried out.

There were also these developments today regarding the war in Indochina:

Three wives of American prisoners of war said that the President told them today that the mines would remain in North Vietnamese waters until the prisoners were released. The women met for 45 minutes this morning with Mr. Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser for national security.

The Pentagon spokesman, Jerry W. Friedheim, said that he had no new information on the movement of Soviet and other ships toward Haiphong harbor. Mr. Friedheim said that a Chinese freighter, reported to be in that harbor, "apparently never was there," reducing to 27 the number still inside the mined entrance. In addition, it has been determined that one of two Soviet ships reported

inside the minefield at the North Vietnamese Port of Campha is outside the mines, Mr. Friedheim said.

Mr. Friedheim said that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for installations and logistics, Barry J. Shillito, reported to the Armed Forces Policy Council this morning that the South Vietnamese Army had "equipment available where needed and when needed." Mr. Shillito and a team of logistics experts were sent to South Vietnam last week by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird to see if the South Vietnamese Army needed more advanced equipment because of the enemy offensive.

Mr. Friedheim announced that Mr. Laird would leave for Europe tomorrow morning for a 10-day visit during which he would participate in meetings in Copenhagen and Brussels of planning groups of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

## The Inland Mining

In discussing the war, Mr. Friedheim said, in response to a question, that the inland waterways were mined to cut off movement of supplies within North Vietnam. "It is being done at river junctions and transshipment points," the Pentagon spokesman said.

In his speech last Monday night, Mr. Nixon said:

"All entrances to North Vietnamese ports will be mined to prevent access to these ports and North Vietnamese naval operations from these ports.

"United States forces have been directed to take appropri-

ate measures within the internal and claimed waters of North Vietnam to interdict the delivery of any supplies."

Mr. Friedheim noted that the North Vietnamese often used the canals and rivers to move supplies from one area of the country to another. He said that as road and rail links were cut, the mines in such waterways would become more important in cutting off supplies.

## Wives Demanded Meeting

The women who met with Mr. Nixon were representatives of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

The league, the largest group of its kind in the country, had expressed "extreme distress" with the President's Vietnamization policy during a convention here a week ago, and a group of its members had delivered a petition to the White House demanding a meeting.

Mr. Nixon met today with Mrs. Sybil E. Stockdale, wife of a Navy captain held prisoner since September, 1965; Mrs. Phyllis E. Galanti, wife of a Navy lieutenant commander held prisoner since June, 1966, and Mrs. Joseph P. Dunn, wife of a Navy lieutenant missing in China since February, 1968.