

Mitchell Makes Another Blast at Clark

SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Former U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell delivered another blast at Ramsey Clark today, calling him "a naive American" who was "unwittingly duped into playing Hanoi's wretched game."

Clark, who was attorney general in the administration of President Johnson, returned from a two-week visit to North Vietnam with a plea to end the U.S. bombing.

"We are bombing the hell out of that little country and it has got to stop," Clark said at a news conference in San Francisco yesterday. "There is no possible moral justification for it."

'Disgusted'

He also said he thought the North Vietnamese had become "disgusted" at continued emphasis by Ameri-

cans on when U.S. prisoners would be released.

Mitchell, in a statement released by the Committee for the Re-election of the President, said:

"Mr. Clark's behavior while within the frontiers of a country waging war against an ally and the armed forces of the United States was inexcusable."

He called on Sen. George McGovern, the Democratic candidate for president, "to face up to this issue." McGovern, who has described Clark as being of cabinet caliber, said Sunday that Clark is not the issue — the bombing is.

Mitchell was attorney general under President Nixon and recently resigned as the President's campaign manager.

Hospitals Bombed

Clark said he saw hospitals, schools and churches that had been bombed, as

well as several dike installations that had been damaged, but did not witness any actual bombings.

"I believe in the basic goodness of the American people," he said. "If they know the truth, they'll do justice."

Mitchell, who criticized Clark for the second time in recent days, said:

"Occasionally, a naive American has been unwittingly duped into playing Hanoi's wretched game, into serving as an American megaphone for Communist propaganda. Such a naive American is Mr. Ramsey Clark."

He said Clark has provided the North Vietnamese "with an international propaganda windfall."

Mitchell implied that, since McGovern did not condemn Clark's statements, "McGovern, like Mr. Clark,

15 Aug 72

seems more solicitous about the fate of a nation committing aggression than about the fate of its victims."

Prisoners

Clark also said he was confident American prisoners will be released when there is a settlement of the war.

He said he pressed Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh on the question of when the prisoners would be released. "But my impression," he added, "was they are disgusted by the question, as if to say, 'You fool, what else do you think we're going to do. Of course we'd release them.'"

On alleged U.S. bombing of dikes in the North, Clark said:

"I can't say they are or aren't bombing the dikes purposefully." But he added he saw "many, many bombed dikes" and that the U.S. "is doing it."