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Nixon's Campaign Strategy

by James Reston

Washington, Aug 17 - ..... All the recent diplomatic activity has not produced any spectacular results. If Kissinger's "friendly persuasion" had really made progress on his last trip to the Paris peace talks, it seems unlikely that Mr. Nixon would have ordered "more than 370 tactical strikes" on North Vietnam, some of them close to Hanoi, precisely when the principal North Vietnamese negotiator in Paris, Le Duc Tho, was arriving in Hanoi for consultations with his Government.

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Also, anybody who ventures to suggest that there might be some better way to end the war in Vietnam or even points to the dangers of bombing the dikes in North Vietnam is immediately attacked, not usually by Mr. Nixon but by one of his political surrogates.

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McGovern had some good ammunition in the Watergate fiasco and the concealed Republican campaign funds and the escalated bombing, now more severe than ever; but every time he mounted the platform, Kissinger or somebody else was flying off on some big mission that put him back with the grocery ads.