

NYTimes
Ramsey Clark's Visit to North Vietnam

AUG 20 1972



TIM

To the Editor:

Secretary of State Rogers has censured as "contemptible" former Attorney General Ramsey Clark's reports on the American bombing of North Vietnam.

All independent observers, including responsible journalists like Anthony Lewis, have concurred with Mr. Clark: the bombing of North Vietnam is inhuman and criminal. But Mr. Rogers calls a man contemptible for speaking the truth as he sees it.

And he implies that the crime and the criminal are not to be condemned, but only the exposure of them; or that a crime is not a crime if we deny that it has been perpetrated—a kind of big-lie technique in reverse.

And yet the Nixon Administration itself authenticates Mr. Clark's accusations. It boasts of bomb tonnages greater than those that destroyed major cities like Hamburg and Dresden in World War II. The inferences regarding damage to North Vietnam are inescapable. All that Mr. Clark has done is to confirm them by visual inspection.

Mr. Rogers' performance is remarkable, even in an election year. In fact, as a grotesque inversion of ethics and logic, the performance would be nearly incredible, except that it proceeds from the Nixon Administration.

(Prof.) JOHN ILLO
 Shippensburg State College
 Shippensburg, Pa., Aug. 13, 1972

To the Editor:

The shocking conduct of Ramsey Clark in giving aid and comfort to the enemy from behind his lines leaves one at a loss to understand his motives. If nothing more noble than politics inspired his action, he has stooped to reap a sordid gain.

Surely a desire to end the war is

shared by everyone, but to gain this end through the sacrifice of national prestige and honor is an unacceptable price to pay for peace. Protracted negotiations in Paris have so far produced nothing more than repeated demands for surrender from a foe who has inflicted fifty thousand casualties on the men who have fought in our country's name.

By implication, Ramsey Clark has allowed the enemy to use the prestige of his former office as a propaganda shield with which to obscure the guilt they bear for the horrors they have inflicted on their brothers to the South. [Editorial Aug. 17.]

By what right does Ramsey Clark presume to usurp the prerogatives of the President and his authorized representatives in dealing with a foreign power with whom we are at war? Such interference in the conduct of foreign affairs by the self-appointed is prohibited by law.

With friends like Ramsey Clark, our men in the field don't need any more enemies, and he would do well to come home in silence and submerge his shame in contrition.

WILLIAM A. NUGENT
 Garden City, L.I., Aug. 15, 1972