

Even With Computers, Bomb Errors Happen

by Michael Getler

Saigon -

In the opinions of some high-ranking officers here, the inddvertent bombing of the French embassy is an example of the poorest kind of judgment.

In this view, the raid against the rail yards just two to three miles across the Red River should not have been carried out at all, with the target so close to Hanoi and with secret peace talks at a critical stage.

But if the target had to be struck, it should have been with laser-guided "smart-bombs," they said.

The rail yards are in an area that is normally covered by Air Force planes, which use these guided weapons. But this attack was carried out by Navy planes using conventional bombs.