

SFChronicle
**U.S. Talk of
 OCT 13 1972
 Missile Is
 Scoffed At**

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 Agence France-Presse

Hanoi

American suggestions that a faulty North Vietnamese missile may have caused the destruction of the French general delegation in Hanoi Wednesday brought a wave of indignation yesterday among diplomats and in authoritative circles.

"If people had not been killed and injured in this tragic affair, this would be laughable," one senior North Vietnam official told this correspondent.

After reading reports of the statements made by the United States command in Saigon and Defense Secretary Melvin Laird in Washington, diplomats and North Vietnamese officials pointed out that one or even two anti-aircraft missiles could never have wrought such extensive damage to the reinforced concrete building

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housing the general delegation.

VIEW

This point of view was shared fully by foreign newsmen stationed here. For many months now, they have learned to distinguish between the damage caused by a bomb and that caused by a missile.

This correspondent, who was on the delegation's premises when the blast occurred, can testify that the violence of the explosion could not have been caused by a rocket.

At most, a rocket could destroy one room but certainly not an entire building.

The extent of the damage was made apparent during the night as giant cranes



This photo from Hanoi was identified as showing the rubble of the French diplomatic building

worked under floodlights to clear the hundreds of tons of rubble on the general delegation site.

CONCRETE

At about 3 a.m., workers had to call for an even bigger crane, because the ones they were using were insufficient to lift the huge blocks of reinforced concrete, some of them weighing more than one ton.

Several other bombs fell near the French mission

during the raid, something which many observers said could not be put down to chance and the clumsiness of one pilot.

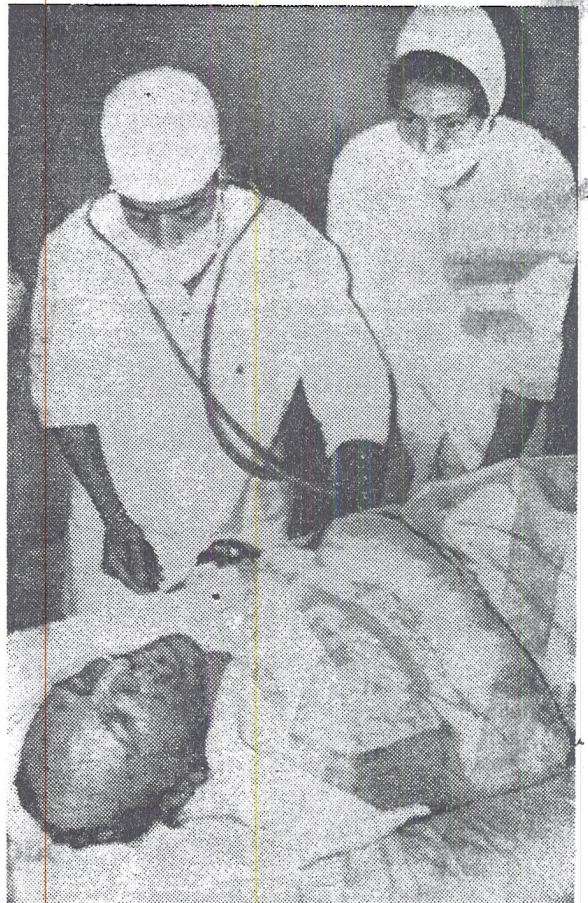
The U.S. command statement from Saigon gave an inaccurate description of the position of the general delegation, the observers added. The building complex is in fact in the center of the city, surrounded by several other embassies, hotels and private houses.

INJURIES

Meanwhile, a diplomatic source said French Delegate General Pierre Susini, who suffered third degree burns in the bombing raid, is in "very satisfactory" condition at St. Paul's Hospital here.

It was suggested at the delegation general that Susi-

ni may be taken to France in a few days, by a medical team for skin grafts to be performed at a special burns hospital in Lyons. It will be four or five days before he could be declared out of danger, hospital sources said. Although Susini was buried under tons of debris he suffered no broken bones. But he was burned on more than half of his body.



PIERRE SUSINI IN A HANOI HOSPITAL
 The French diplomat was badly burned