

2d Biggest Bombing Of North This Year Is Reported by U.S.

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By The Associated Press
SAIGON, South Vietnam, Monday, Oct. 16—The United States command reported yesterday that nearly 400 American fighter-bombers struck North Vietnam with the second heaviest bombardment of the year, while B-52's bombed in all four countries of Indochina.

[In Washington, a high-ranking official said that there was a "consensus" in the Administration that American bombs were probably responsible for the damage done to the French and other diplomatic missions in Hanoi last week. Page 3.]

The newest bombing by the eight-jet B-52's was directed at suspected enemy positions in Laos, Cambodia, North Vietnam and South Vietnam, including targets 15 miles from Saigon, the command said.

Smaller fighter-bombers of the Air Force, Navy and Marines were said to have carried out more than 350 strikes Saturday in a wide area of North Vietnam—ranging from the demilitarized zone to the corridor between Hanoi and the Chinese border.

The heaviest raids of the year against the North came

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on Aug. 16, when more than 370 strikes were made, the command said. "We are maintaining our high level of air activity to destroy military targets supporting the invasion of South Vietnam," a command spokesman said.

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[Remainder of story not kept.]