## MISSION BOMBING : CONCEDED BY U.S

'Mechanical Failure' Cited in Raid Over Hanoi-French Envoy Dies NYTimes OCT 21 1972

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 Defense Department said today that it had concluded from an extensive investigation that it was an American bomb that "inadvertently struck" French diplomatic mission in Hanoi Oct. 11.

Five persons died at the mission, which was badly damaged. Its chief diplomat, Pierre Susini, who suffered severe burns and other injuries, died last night in Paris, where he had been taken for treatment.

At the Pentagon, Jerry W. Friedheim, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, termed the bombing of the mission an accident. He said it probably resulted from a mechanical failure in a bomb release system in which a 500pound bomb did not fall until after the plane carrying it had pulled out of its bombing dive.

At the time, he said, about two dozen Navy F-4 and A-7 jets from the carrier Midway were attacking a railroad yard and transshipment point about three miles northeast the French mission.

Mr. Friedheim said that the

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ing the target area.

The first American comment on the incident, released in Saigon, suggested the damage might have been caused by a North Vietnamese surface-toair missile falling to earth. That notion was at first reinforced by the Pentagon, although Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird conceded that pilots were mindful of the fact that an accident had happened and would try to avoid flying directly over diplomatic missions if future strikes were called in the same area.

A Career Diplomat Special to The Nature 100 t a planned strike," he said.

A ranking Pentagon official said there had been no change in the rules of engagement but that pilots were mindful of the fact that an accident had happened and would try to avoid flying directly over diplomatic missions if future strikes were called in the same area.

A Career Diplomat

Mr. Friedheim said the conclusion was reached after an extensive investigation of reconnaissance photos and reconstruction of the incident from pilot accounts and what he described as a few other sources. It was understood that the French showed various diplomats bomb fragments bearing yellow markings characteristic of American ordinance.

Mr. Friedheim said it appeared that none of the planes right temple, right knee and left had been off-course and that leg as well as internal none of the pilots mistook the in the thorax and abdom an extensive investigation of reconsisting the prompt plane attended by the President Nixon in a message to President Pompidou.

President Pompidou.

President Pompidou, informed today at the European summit conference here that Shortly after he was rescued Mr. Susini had died, expressed from the rubble of his Hanoi shock.

Paul's Hospital, he was visited by the Premier.

Mr. Susini, who suffered third-degree burns on 55 per cent of his body, injuries on his peared that none of the planes right temple, right knee and left had been off-course and that leg as well as internal lesions none of the pilots mistook the in the thorax and abdom en, was for five days in the care of four North Vietnamese physicians.

He was flown back to Paris last Tuesday in a special French formed today at the European summit conference here that Shortly at the European summit conference here that Shortly at the European summit conference here that Stortly at the European summit conference here tha

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7 French mission for a military jets flew over part of Hanoi in both approaching and leaving the said.

Special to The New York Times
PARIS, Oct. 20—France's senwolved.

Mr. Freidheim said today that none of the pilots involved in the strike admitted that his plane might have dropped a bomb off-target.

"All information now avail mission nine days ago was a second solution."

bomb off-target.

"All information now available to us from a variety of sources indicates that the French mission in Hanoi was inadvertently struck by a U.S. bomb." Bomb Fragments Shown

Mr. Friedheim said the conclusion was reached after an important intermediary in

Tuesday in a special French Government plane, attended by three French doctors, including his son Jacques.

Mr. Susini died in a military hospital in suburban Clamart.

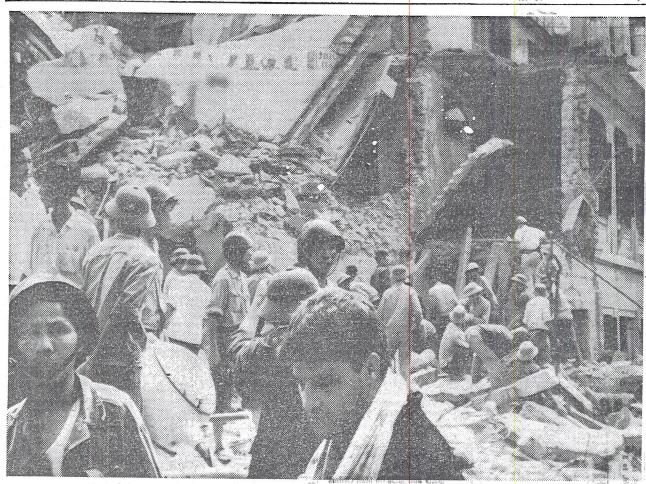
The bombing had elicited an immediate protest on Oct. 11 to the United States by the French Government and apologies from the American Am-bassador here, Arthur K. Wat-son, from Secretary of State William P. Rogers and from



Pierre Susini, died on Thursday of injuries received in the bombing.

President Nixon in a message to President Pompidou.

Photo accompanies story, "Mission Bombing Conceded by U.S."



Rescue workers at the French missilon in Hanoi on Oct. 11, when a bomb struck. Yesterday, the Pentagon said the bomb hit probably resulted from a mechanical failure in the bombing system of an American plane.