

No Let-Up in Bombing, Fighting

Associated Press

Saigon

The allied commands reported sustained United States bombing of North Vietnam and ground action in the South as top-level diplomatic consultations continued yesterday on the subject of peace.

Although fighting slackened somewhat in the embattled region just north of Saigon, senior commanders said they saw no indications that the peace maneuverings are in any way affecting battlefield events, and predicted more efforts by

enemy forces at disruptive and spectacular attacks around the capital.

A heavy rocket barrage against the big U.S.-South Vietnamese air base at Bien Hoa, 15 miles northeast of Saigon bore out intelligence reports that had been obtained from prisoners and other sources, officers said.

In an updated report on Bien Hoa, South Vietnamese spokesmen said 13 government soldiers were wounded, one helicopter destroyed

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and three small observation planes damaged. Military sources said two Vietnamese were killed but spokesmen said they had no such report.

The U.S. command listed two Americans wounded and about 16 injured scrambling for cover as about 60 Soviet-built 122-mm. rockets slammed into the base and nearby areas just before dawn.

BOMBING

American B-52s continued bombing suspected enemy troop and supply locations north of Saigon, dropping 600 tons of explosives in areas 20 to 33 miles from the city.

Ground fighting was widely scattered and officials in the Central Highlands, where action has recently stepped up, reported North Vietnamese troops overran one village and burned several others.

In the air war, U.S. Air Force and Navy planes flew 220 raids over North Vietnam, the U.S. command said, about the same daily average of the past two weeks.