

## Bad Weather

# Bombing Cut Over N. Viet

SAIGON — (AP) — U.S. fighter-bombers flew only 140 strikes against the North Vietnamese panhandle yesterday, half the average of the two previous days, but military sources said the reduction was not due to the imminent resumption of secret peace negotiations in Paris.

Sources attributed the drop partly to bad weather and partly to diversion of planes to the region just below the Demilitarized Zone, in South Vietnam's Quang Tri province.

A military spokesman said a surface-to-air missile depot 10 miles above the DMZ was among the targets hit yesterday, and 64 canisters in which the missiles are transported were destroyed.

## Deepest

U.S. B52 bombers made their deepest penetration of North Vietnam in seven months last night, striking stockpiles within 10 miles of the 20th parallel, the U.S. Command announced.

The Hanoi-Haiphong region and all other Vietnamese territory above the 20th parallel remained off limits to American attack. Bombing was suspended there on Oct. 22 to improve prospects for a cease-fire agreement.

South of the demilitarized zone, U.S. fighter-bombers flew 158 strikes in the northernmost provinces of South Vietnam during the 24 hours ending at 6 a.m. today, the U.S. Command said.

Sources said the attack planes were supporting South Vietnamese marines and paratroopers trying to push out from Quang Tri City to expand the government's territorial control prior to a cease-fire.

## Red Control

Although the marines recaptured Quang Tri City, 19 miles below the DMZ, Sept. 16, the North Vietnamese still control most of the province.

More ground fighting was reported north of Saigon. Field reports said 16 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were killed in small clashes 15 to 25 miles north of the capital. South Vietnamese losses were put at five killed and seven wounded.