

# Moscow Denounces U.S. Stepup of Air Attacks

## Moscow

The Soviet government yesterday denounced the resumption of wide-scale U.S. air raids over North Vietnam and said it is giving the developing situation "its most serious consideration."

A statement by the official press agency, Tass, said the "Soviet people" demand prompt cessation of the widening air attacks and a speedy signing of an agreement to end the war.

Alluding to President Nixon's decision to resume wide

air attacks after the peace talks in Paris had become stalled last week, the statement said:

"This particular decision of Washington flagrantly disagrees with numerous protestations made by U.S. leaders about their wish to seek mutually acceptable solutions for the remaining unresolved problems."

The tone of the Soviet statement appeared to reflect embarrassment among the Soviet leaders at the latest turn of events in Vietnam.

The new escalation comes just when the Kremlin has been expressing interest in expanding trade with the U.S. in an effort to bolster the troubled Soviet economy, whose growth rate has been sharply cut back following a poor crop this year.

The Soviet leadership is also confronted with an aggravation of the Vietnam situation after clearly supporting President Nixon's re-election in November.

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