

Wide Criticism Of Renewed U.S. Bombing

By United Press International

Governments and statesmen around the world expressed dismay and concern today over the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam.

The Soviet Union said it was giving the situation "the most serious consideration" and China reaffirmed its "duty" to support Hanoi and the Viet Cong.

North Vietnam said the renewed bombing showed that the Nixon administration's assertion that it is seeking peace is "a whopping lie."

Seventeen Democratic members of Congress expressed "a deep sense of despair" and several U.S. anti-war groups called for another series of protests.

Russia and China

The Kremlin condemned the renewed air strikes as a move to pressure Hanoi into a peace settlement.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said:

"... The governing circles of the Soviet Union are giving the most serious consideration to the situation created by the step-up in U.S. military action against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam."

"No pretexts, invented in a bid to justify the brutal bombing, can hide the fact that we are faced with new aggressive actions which the U.S.A. is taking against a sovereign state."

Peking pledged its "international duty" to support Vietnamese Communist forces in their struggle

against U.S. "aggression" until complete victory.

Acting President Tung Piwu and Premier Chou En-lai made the pledge in a message greeting the 12th anniversary of the founding of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front.

U.S. Congress

The 17 congressmen sent Nixon a joint telegram expressing "a deep sense of despair that we must once again urge you to halt immediately the resumption of United States military activity in North Vietnam.

"The American people and their representatives in Congress cannot be told that 'peace is at hand' two weeks prior to the election and that full-scale military action is necessary two months later."

Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) said Americans were "entitled to a full explanation of this disastrous turn of events."

"When Congress returns in January, it will demand such an explanation," he said.

In Yakima, Wash., Rep. Paul McCloskey (R-Calif.) said it was time for one more anti-war protest. McCloskey said Nixon took advantage of the congressional recess and the holiday closure of campuses to renew his bombing of Hanoi and its environs. He urged students to send telegrams of protest to Nixon. He said Congress should cut off funds for the war.