

# Protests of U.S. Bombing

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Western Europe is reacting to the American bombing of North Vietnam with growing protests and a mixture of sadness, disgust and anger.

Correspondents in major capitals reported that virtually all shades of opinion have joined in denouncing the resumption of the heavy American raids. And there was talk among some left-wing groups and unions of organizing boycotts of American goods and ships until the bombing is halted.

The harshest official attack came Saturday from Premier Olof Palme of Sweden, whose Social Democratic government has been a sharp critic of U.S. policy in Vietnam. In a statement, Palme said the bombing was an outrage to be listed with Nazi massacres in World War II.

"One should call things by their proper name," he said. "What is happening today in Vietnam is a form of torture. There are no military grounds for the bombing."

## RALLIES

Street demonstrations of varying sizes have been held here, in Copenhagen, Zurich and Amsterdam. In Rome 25,000 people heeded the call of the Italy - Vietnam Committee, a left-wing organization, and turned out in a massive parade and rally Friday night. About 7000 joined in a protest in Copenhagen Saturday, including many elderly people.

At official levels in the capitals, there were expressions of regret over the continued warfare and of concern that the new raids might jeopardize the new relationship developed between the Soviet Union and the U.S. which followed President Nixon's visit last May. Other officials in Bonn, London and elsewhere took the view that the bomb-

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ing would serve further to tarnish the image of the U.S.

Despite the scattered street demonstrations, the depth of feeling among Europeans toward the bombing is difficult to gauge. The bombing and mining of Hai-phong earlier this year failed to stir widespread protests. And some officials believe that, to many Americans, Europeans have grown rather numb to the events in Indochina after all the years of warfare.

## EDITORIALS

The tone of newspaper editorials throughout Western Europe has been the bitterest in some time. The Daily Mirror here, a mass circulation tabloid of the left, called President Nixon a "frustrated, glib and secretive man" whose name will be blackened by the bombing.

"It is an act of insane ferocity," the Mirror said. "A crude exercise in the politics of terror. A blunder of tragic magnitude."

The moderate Times of London said the bombing has "a particular horror because of its massive scale, its indiscriminate character and its apparent employment as an act of negotiation rather than an act of

war." The Guardian joined the protests, asking whether "Mr. Nixon want to go down in history as one of the most murderous and bloodthirsty of American presidents."

The President received

more understanding from the conservative Daily Telegraph here which said that Mr. Nixon was clearly using power "in a just cause." It said that the kind of agreement backed by Hanoi would "in no way have

squared with Nixon's requirement of a just and fair agreement."

In Paris, however, even the conservative Figaro, normally friendly to the U.S., expressed disapproval over the attacks. Roger Mis-

sap, the foreign editor, asked some worried questions about the effects of the bombing.

Washington says that its "honor" would be saved only by a just and equitable peace, Massip wrote, but

"will it not be tarnished by the destruction of a country executed by the cold determination that seems to have taken over among the leaders of the U.S.?"

France-Soir said that it served no purpose for "a lit-

tle country, whatever the judgment that one may have about its policy, to be crushed by the greatest world power that wants to be the standard bearer of our civilization's values."

So far, there has been only

one demonstration of several thousand in France. The government has refrained from any recent statements although it has previously deplored intensification of the war and the recourse by the U.S. to efforts to achieve a military solution.