

A Briton's Bitter Blast At U.S. Raids on North

London

The general public restraint shown by top British politicians toward the American bombardment of North Vietnam ended yesterday with a bitter attack by the most re-

strained of the Labor party's leaders, Roy Jenkins.

In a public letter to Prime Minister Edward Heath, Jenkins said that the bombing raids are "one of the most cold-blooded actions in recent history."

He urged Heath, whose government has publicly refused to make any comment on the raids and has privately intimated that it had little choice but to give "mute support," to speak out against them.

TERROR

President Nixon, Jenkins said, "has unleashed a wave of terror using the massive resources of the most advanced technological country against a small but stubborn part of the backwards world, and he has done it in order to try to secure slightly better terms for withdrawal than those he indicated he was prepared to accept before his re-election."

Noting that Heath is due to visit Washington at the beginning of February, Jenkins observed that the reputation of the Conservative government in the United States "is that it is surprisingly indifferent to what happens there." He added:

"I believe that you would serve Britain better if you showed more interest in the capacity for good which is still strongly present in America, combined with a greater willingness to speak out firmly when that force is temporarily diverted."

MINORITY

Jenkins, who led a minority of Labor MPs in supporting Britain's entry into the Common Market, and subsequently resigned his deputy leadership, remains an important party figure. As the most prominent member of what could be loosely called the party's conservative wing, his bitter attack on U.S. policy carries considerable weight.

It contrasted not only with the official silence of that government, but with the somewhat more muffled language used yesterday by the Labor leader, Harold Wilson. Wilson, who is criticized inside his own party for having failed to criticize American policy in Vietnam when he was prime minister, said the bombing was "deplorable," but he did not go very much beyond that.

SWEDEN

In Stockholm, the leaders of all Sweden's political parties issued an unprecedented declaration denouncing the American air war against North Vietnam.

The proclamation by Premier Olaf Palme and four other political chiefs said they had sent a telegram to United Nations Secretary Kurt Waldheim urgently requesting him "to use his influence in order to bring the bombings to a halt and to reach peace and independence for Vietnam."

Relations between Stockholm and Washington have been rapidly deteriorating since last week when Palme drew a parallel between the U.S. raids and World War II Nazi atrocities.

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