

Most Raids On South In a Month

Saigon

American warplanes attacked Communist positions throughout South Vietnam yesterday in the highest number of raids in more than a month.

The U.S. command reported that fighter - bombers logged 311 raids in the South during the 24 - hour reporting period ending at 8 a.m. yesterday.

In addition, U.S. B-52s flew about 90 raids in South Vietnam during the same period, dropping tons of explosives on North Vietnamese troop concentrations, staging areas and supply caches.

The apparent aim of the air raids is to blunt a North Vietnamese buildup of men and supplies before any cease - fire takes effect. A cease - fire under the terms believed being discussed would prohibit troop reinforcement and resupply of equipment.

NORTH

All bombing and other offensive operations have been halted over the North because of a presidential order said to reflect progress in the peace talks. But an increasing number of air raids have been flown over the South, along with continuing air operations over Laos and Cambodia.

B-52 raids in South Vietnam were flown yesterday from the northernmost province of Quang Tri to the southern Mekong Delta. But most missions were reported over two hotly contested areas: the Saigon river corridor northwest of the capital and Quang Tri Province just below the former demilitarized zone.

The targets in both cases were troop concentrations, supply dumps and staging areas. U.S. Air Force F-4 Phantom jets also reported destroying two trucks and a tank northwest of Quang Tri city.

FIRES

Several secondary explosions and fires were reported after the F-4 attacks, the

U.S. command said, and the Phantoms also struck other enemy targets around the flattened provincial capital.

In the river corridor about 50 miles northwest of Saigon, B-52s flew ten missions of three planes each on enemy targets. There have been reports of a considerable North Vietnamese troop buildup in the rubber plantation region.

In other action, enemy gunners shelled the Da Nang air base, the provincial capital of Quang Ngai 75 miles to the south, and blew up a bridge 20 miles east of Saigon with a floating mine.

One Vietnamese was wounded and six buildings and one aircraft were damaged when 20 Soviet - built 122mm rockets hit the air base and an adjoining village before dawn Wednesday. No American casualties were reported.

Associated Press