

U.S. Jets Stage Heaviest Raids In Five Months

SAIGON, (AP)—American warplanes attacked throughout South Vietnam on Tuesday as South Vietnamese infantrymen mounted spoiling operations on the ground.

Military sources said the bombing—the heaviest one-day raids in five months—and the ground thrusts were designed to prevent a Communist land grab before a cease-fire.

President Nguyen Van Thieu, in a special Tet lunar new year letter broadcast by government television Tuesday night, warned his nation not to trust the Communists during a cease-fire.

"If the Communists have to agree to sign a cease-fire agreement it is only because

their war of invasion has been defeated," the president said. "We should not believe that the Communists will respect the agreement. We should not rely on their signature, and should not believe that they have renounced their intensification of efforts to take control of South Vietnam."

The U.S. command reported that fighter-bombers carried out 374 strikes in the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. Tuesday. U.S. B-52 bombers logged an additional 80 strikes.

The command said the total of 454 strikes was the highest in South Vietnam since Aug. 22.

Thieu was said to have told his Cabinet that captured enemy documents contained orders to North Vietnamese and Vietcong military units to grab as much land as possible before and after the cease-fire.

To support the land-grab theory, sources reported North Vietnamese and Vietcong units were on the move south from the Cambodian border toward Saigon, and from the Cambodian and Laotian borders eastward toward Kontum City and Pleiku in the Central Highlands.

Buddhist Leader, Foe of Thieu, Dies

Agence France-Presse

SAIGON, Jan. 23—The Venerable Thich Thien Hoa, one of South Vietnamese President Thieu's major Buddhist opponents, died yesterday following an operation at a French hospital here, it was announced today.

The Venerable Thich Thien Hoa was one of the influential leaders of the anti-government An Quang pagoda. He had taken part, along with such well-known Buddhist leaders as Thich Tam Chau and Thich Tri Quang, in the opposition movement to former President Diem in 1963.