

Hanoi Is Warned
On Aid From U.S.

Live Up to Cease-Fire
Pact, Defense
Secretary Says

by William Beecher
Special to
[NYTimes]

Washington,
March 5 - Two top
Defense Department
officials, in
separate forums
warned North Vietnam
today that it would
be advised to live
up to cease-fire
agreements in South
Vietnam and Laos if
it expects to receive
reconstruction aid
from the United-
States.

At a Pentagon news confer-
ence this morning, Secretary of
Defense Elliot D. Richardson
said that "unless the cease-fire
agreements are observed, the
situation is hardly likely to be
one in which we would believe
it was appropriate to provide
assistance."

About the same time, in a
speech before a convention of
the Veterans of Foreign Wars
in downtown Washington,
Deputy Defense Secretary Wil-
liam P. Clements Jr. declared:
"I am sure Hanoi understands
that the United States is in-
terested in peace and will un-
der no circumstances provide
assistance to any country that
is committing aggression
against its neighbors or ignor-
ing its international agree-
ments."

At the Pentagon conference,
Mr. Richardson challenged
Congressional assertions that
"pockets of fat" had been hid-
den in the new defense budget
in order to fund a postwar re-
construction effort in North
Vietnam. "I think I can un-

equivocally assure you that
there aren't any," he said.

If the truce terms are ob-
served scrupulously by all
parties, Mr. Richardson said,
some savings should be realized
in the \$29-billion budget re-
quest for Southeast Asian op-
erations for the 12 months
starting July 1.

In that event, he said, those
savings and whatever money
Congress cuts from the \$79-
billion military spending re-
quest might be shifted to re-
construction—Congress willing.
Additional money might come
from the foreign assistance
program, he noted.

Negotiations Are On

The scope of a postwar aid
program is being negotiated
now, he said. Last Friday, Pres-
ident Nixon said that any such
effort would be funded out of
defense spending and foreign
assistance and not at the ex-
pense of domestic programs.

Mr. Richardson said that if
a stable cease-fire remained
elusive, it was conceivable the
administration would seek sup-
plementary funds for weapons
and other costs that might in-
volve such things as future air
strikes or re-positioning of
ships. But he said that there
had been a "gradual decline in
the violations from day to day,"
and expressed hope that "hos-
tilities will eventually cease
entirely."

In his formal remarks, Mr.
Clements, the Deputy Secre-
tary, said that "a reasonable
program of future economic
assistance to the countries of
Southeast Asia — including
North Vietnam—is an invest-
ment in peace just as the
larger Marshall Plan was a suc-
cessful investment in peace
after World War II."

Mr. Clements strenuously
opposed amnesty for draft
evaders and deserters. "More
than two and a half million
Americans obeyed the law and
served the nation in Southeast
Asia," he said. "It would be an
insult to every one of them to
grant total forgiveness to a few
thousand who abandoned
America."