

'Threat' of Renewed Bombing

Washington

President Nixon expressed concern yesterday about the movement of North Vietnamese military equipment toward South Vietnam and told Hanoi not to "lightly disregard" his words.

The President's statement was interpreted by the diplomatic community and by members of the White House staff as an unmistakable warning to the North Vietnamese that they are risking a resumption of American bombing.

Appearing at an unscheduled news conference, Mr. Nixon disclosed that he has conveyed his concern to Hanoi and to "other interested parties" — presumably including China and the Soviet Union.

STATEMENTS

The President then added: "Based on my actions over the past four years, the North Vietnamese should not lightly disregard such expressions of concern, when they are made with regard to a violation.

"That is all I will say about it."

What Mr. Nixon has done in the past when his warnings went unheeded, White House staff members were quick to confirm, is to take compensatory and often dramatic military action, such as mining North Vietnamese harbors or bombing.

RELUCTANCE

But the officials also said the President has become extremely reluctant to take such measures — not only in the two weeks remaining until all American prisoners of war are scheduled to be released but in the months beyond that time.

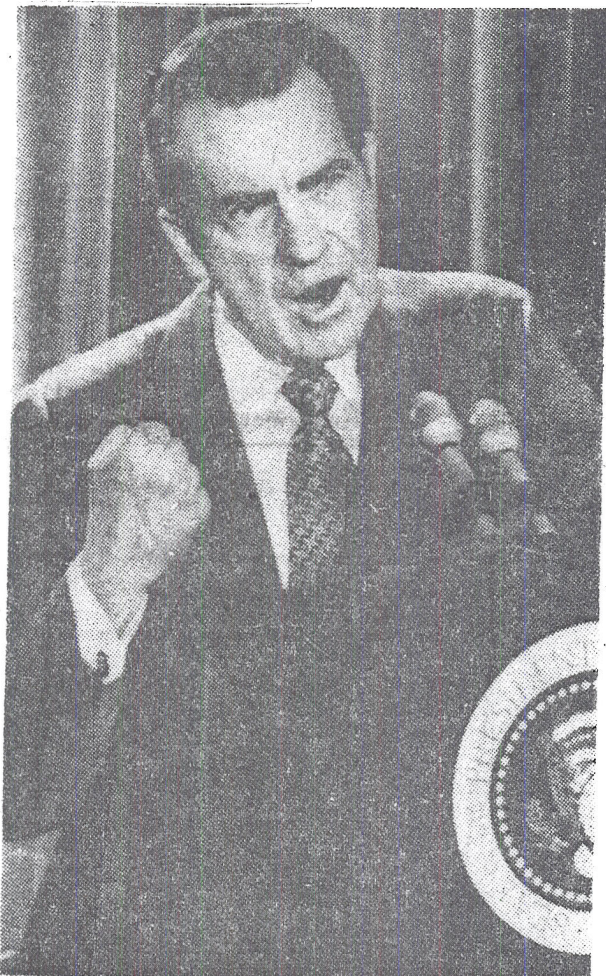
"We still think that if we are firm they will come around," one Nixon associate said. "We are not looking for an excuse to resume

bombing — quite the contrary. We will do it only if North Vietnam behaves like a complete bandit."

One problem that Mr. Nixon would not like to confront, another administration source suggested, is the creation of new prisoners of war, through the inevitable shooting down of American planes, just when the others had come home.

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PRESIDENT NIXON AT NEWS CONFERENCE
He spoke on food, Vietnam and presidential privilege