

# The Outlook for New Bombing

## Washington

Secretary of Defense Elliot L. Richardson said yesterday the U.S. would have to consider "reintroduction of U.S. air support" if Hanoi launched another massive invasion of South Vietnam.

But he said such an invasion is unlikely and that he believes South Vietnamese forces could defend themselves against anything short of that without U.S. help.

Richardson also said he could not answer the question of whether American bombing in Cambodia could become a long-term commitment.

"It has to be looked at on a day to day basis," he replied. "Our objective is to bring about full compliance with the ceasefire agreement."

The secretary refused to give details on the size of the U.S. Cambodia bombing campaign but said it is "nothing like" the December blitz bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong.

Richardson, testifying before the House defense appropriations subcommittee, said Hanoi is unlikely to launch another massive invasion of the South like the one last spring.

Richardson also declared the purpose of giving U.S. aid to Hanoi is to maintain the cease-fire by strengthening the North Vietnamese who want to rebuild their country against what he called the "handful of people" who dominated them and waged the war.

Later he told newsmen the administration also would not ask for new money for Hanoi aid.

"If after July 1 (the start of the new fiscal year), there is a firm cease-fire in place," he said, "there would be savings that could be applied to aid to North Vietnam. But we would have to come back to Congress for approval."

*Associated Press*