

Some in B-52 Crews Deplore Raids

WASHINGTON, May 2 (Reuters)—At least a dozen crew members of B-52 bombers used in raids in Cambodia have written members of Congress protesting against the bombing, it was disclosed today.

The letters were sent to several Congressional offices, including those of four Democratic Senators, J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; Edward M. Kennedy, George McGovern and Harold Hughes, a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Aides to Mr. Fulbright and Mr. Kennedy, who received about half a dozen letters each, said the protests were unusual in both number and tone. Previously, they said, the occasional letters received appeared to

reflect mainly personal complaints.

Mr. Fulbright put six letters in The Congressional Record, saying, "These constitute an eloquent indictment of U.S. military activities in Indochina." He said he had deleted names and unit identification to protect the writers from retaliation.

The letters, along with those shown to reporters by Mr. Kennedy's office, were signed and in most cases had details designed to show their authenticity. They were sent through military post offices, mainly from Guam, the base for some of the B-52's used to strike Communist forces in Cambodia.

A letter to Mr. Kennedy from a navigator said: "We are no more than a mercenary army fighting solely on the discretion of our President."

Another said: "I enlisted to defend our nation, not to fight for some little countries that cannot settle problems in its own government."

A common theme was that the bombing should have ended after American prisoners were released by North Vietnam.

A letter to Mr. Fulbright urged that the United States abandon what the writer called "our present policies of 'dial a B-52 strike whenever and wherever you want.'"

The writer, a B-52 co-pilot, added: "This plea is not a one-man show. The majority of the crew force presently engaged in these operations are tired and fed up with the entire affair; perhaps it is the numbness or maybe despair which keeps the situation less volatile."

Several letters said the extended tours of duty were adversely affecting many airmen's marriages.

Still another letter said: "Every day of bombing splashes blood in the face of America. What will we tell our children?"