

Cutback in B-52 Raids Reported

Washington

A cutback of 40 per cent has been ordered in B-52 bombing raids over Cambodia, informed U.S. military sources said yesterday. The order took effect a few days ago.

The huge jets had been averaging about 5 to 6 flights a day over the past three months.

Defense department sources say the reduction in B-52 operations is linked primarily to an attempt to cut down on the mounting costs of the U.S. air operations in Indochina. But they concede privately that there is also an increasing morale problem among B-52 bomber crews at bases on Guam and in Thailand who talk of being "mercenaries" caught up in a war "not in my country's national interest."

There has been no reduction, however, in the level of bombing being carried by smaller U.S. fighter-bombers, which make about 15 attacks a day.

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