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# C.I.A. BASE IN LAOS REPORTED BOMBED

## U.S. Planes Said to Attack Compound in Error

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Feb. 14 (AP)—Reliable sources said today that American planes mistakenly bombed a United States Central Intelligence Agency base in Laos, causing heavy casualties and damage.

The informants, in Vientiane, Laos, said that United States Air Force F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers had been trying to drive back a North Vietnamese attack when their bombs dropped on the secret C.I.A. compound and airstrip at the Long Tieng base. The base, 78 miles northwest of Vientiane, is the headquarters of Gen. Vang Pao's guerrilla army.

The sources said that the American barracks had burned down and at least one American agent had been wounded. Other bombs reportedly started fires in the town of Long Tieng.

### Bombs Dropped in Error

The United States Command in Saigon said it had no comment on the report. Although the fighter-bombers came from bases in Thailand, they are under the tactical control of the United States Seventh Air Force in South Vietnam.

A week ago, a United States Navy fighter-bomber mistakenly dropped scores of bombs the size of hand grenades on South Vietnamese troops massed along the border for the drive into Laos. Six men were killed and 51 wounded.

The fighter-bomber was apparently diving to attack North Vietnamese positions on the Laotian side of the border when the cluster bomb dropped prematurely, falling on forward positions of the South Vietnamese.

The situation at Long Tieng, the keystone of Laotian defenses in the north central section of the country, appeared worsening. General Vang Pao made an urgent trip to Vientiane to seek reinforcements but was reported turned down.

The American bombers were called in after North Vietnamese troops launched heavy rocket, mortar and ground assaults against the base. Some of the attackers penetrated the perimeter.

Reports from Vientiane said elements of at least two North Vietnamese divisions, totaling about 6,000 troops, had surrounded Long Tieng.

### Civilians Flee Town

General Vang Pao is reported to have about 6,000 Meo tribesmen under his command in the Long Tieng area and two Thai artillery batteries. Reliable sources estimated that at least 20,000 refugees had streamed south from Long Tieng in anticipation of heavy fighting.

General Vang Pao is reported to be wondering whether to make a last-ditch stand at Long Tieng or to withdraw into the hills.

In southern Laos, other United States bombers roamed across the east-west axis of the Ho Chi Minh trail attacking North Vietnamese mountain hideouts overlooking Route 9 on the approaches to the town of Sepone.

Elsewhere in Indochina, North Vietnamese gunners fired nearly 100 mortar shells into the night bivouac of a South Vietnamese unit seven miles north-east of Suong, along Route 7.