

New U. S.-Viet Air Raid —Next Move Up to Reds

"THE SOVIET UNION will be forced, together with its allies and friends, to take further measures to safeguard the security and to strengthen the defense capability of the democratic republic of Viet Nam. No one should doubt that the Soviet Union will do this; that the Soviet people will fulfill its international duty . . ."

—Official Soviet statement in Moscow yesterday. Details on Page 7.

"OVER THE YEARS of this century men . . . have made great mistakes in miscalculating the character and strength and fortitude of America's youth. . . We shall take up any challenge, answer any threat, pay any price to make certain that freedom shall not perish from this earth."

—President Johnson's admonition yesterday. Details below.

ON THE BATTLE FRONT

By Beverly Deepe
A Special Correspondent

SAIGON.

South Vietnamese fighter-bombers, supported by American jets, smashed at a North Vietnamese base yesterday in the second retaliatory raid in two days on the Communist north.

Seventy per cent of the military targets around Vinh Linh, five miles from the South Vietnamese border, were reported knocked out in the air strike, and columns of smoke and fire rose over the target area.

One South Vietnamese plane was crippled by heavy Communist ground fire and crashed in South Viet Nam, but the pilot parachuted and was rescued. The U. S. Defense Department reported no American planes missing.

The raid was a follow-up to Sunday's strike at the Dong Hoi area, 75 miles farther north, by 49 United States Navy planes. South Vietnamese and other American planes had also taken off Sunday to join in the aerial reprisal for a Communist attack at Pleiku, in which eight U. S. service men were killed and 108 wounded. But the land-based planes were prevented by bad weather from reaching their targets in the initial attack.

U. S. Navy photo-reconnaissance planes returned to the Dong Hoi area yesterday to take pictures of the damage to Communist troop centers there, the Pentagon announced in Washington. It said jet fighters accompanied the reconnaissance planes and "expended some ordnance" against North Vietnamese anti-aircraft batteries which opened fire.

None of the U. S. planes was damaged and all returned safely to the carrier Hancock, the statement said.

The Vinh Linh raid was announced at a Saigon press conference by Lt. Gen. Nguyen Khanh, South Vietnamese Armed Forces commander-in-chief, who said giving the retaliation order made Sunday "the happiest and most important day of my life."

The attack was carried out by 24 South Vietnamese
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New York Herald Tribune

Tuesday, February 9, 1965

NEW AMERICAN-VIET AIR RAID

(Continued from page one)

Air Force Skyraider fighter-bombers under Brig. Gen. Nguyen Cao Ky, the Air Force commander, Gen. Khanh said. U. S. jets accompanied the propeller-driven Sky raiders, apparently to deal with possible interception by North Vietnamese jets and to suppress ground fire.

Gen. Ky, in a separate statement, said four American F-100 jets took part and dropped bombs on one target area with "excellent" results. He said he believed one F-100 was hit by anti-aircraft fire but there were no American casualties. One South Vietnamese pilot was wounded in the neck by shell fragments, and Gen. Ky himself was grazed by shrapnel which pierced his shirt.

"We came in very low, just off the tree tops," Gen. Ky told newsmen. "Just before we reached the target, we pulled up to release our bombs. That's when the flak hit us. Almost all our planes were hit."

He identified the targets as military installations at the villages of Liem Cong Tay, That Le and Song Song near Vinh Linh on a route leading to the nearby border. He declined to say whether more raids were planned.

Gen. Khanh announced he was "very proud" of Gen. Ky, a power among the younger generals' group with whom Gen. Khanh maintains an uneasy political alliance. Brig. Gen. Nguyen Duc Thang, head of the South Vietnamese Joint Operation Center, appeared at the press conference with Gen. Khanh and reported these results of the attack:

"Seventy per cent of the military targets were estimated destroyed and a number of columns of smoke and fire were seen spiraling up by the pilots."

The Vinh Linh raid, like the Dong Hoi strike, was in retaliation for the Communist guerrilla attacks at Pleiku and other points early Sunday that were regarded as directed by North Viet Nam, Gen. Khanh said.

He also refused to disclose whether further air strikes were planned, saying only that "the Vietnamese Armed Forces will undertake activities that are both timely and to the point."

Asked whether Communist aerial counterattacks were

expected, he said: "In war there's always a risk." But he expressed certainty that North Vietnamese planes, which include MIG jet fighters, could not get through his own and American air defenses in South Viet Nam. If Chinese Communist planes attacked, he said, "at most, 2 to 3 per cent of their planes would get through."

Meanwhile, an American military spokesman announced the arrival by air of the first units of a Marine anti-aircraft battalion equipped with Hawk missiles to deal with possible Red air attacks. The Hawks, whose movement to South Viet Nam was announced Sunday in Washington, will be based at Da Nang, a major U. S. Air Force base 300 miles north of Saigon and 100 miles below the North Vietnamese border. The base is secured by more than 300 U. S. troops.

The spokesman said the emplacement of the Hawks in South Viet Nam had long been part of U. S. contingency planning but the decision was made only on Sunday after the Pleiku attack. Unofficial Vietnamese sources, however, said the missiles had been en route to South Viet Nam before Sunday.

The only immediate Communist comment on the latest retaliatory air strike came from the Peking radio, which quoted North Vietnamese officials as saying that six American planes were shot down yesterday in addition to four Sunday. The Soviet news agency Tass also reported new American air losses from Hanoi. But U. S. authorities said only one U. S. plane was lost in the Sunday raid.

The Pentagon yesterday identified another of the U. S. dead in the Pleiku attack as Capt. George Markos, of Melbourne, Fla. A sentry whose detection of Communist infiltrators probably kept the casualty toll from rising higher was identified as Sp. 5/c Jesse A. Pyle, of Marina, Calif., who was killed in the Red onslaught.

Among those listed as seriously wounded was Pfc. Gordon V. Hansen, son of Mrs. Edna I. Hansen, of 131 Britton Road, West Hempstead, N. Y.