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NORTH VIETNAM

"When we arrived, there were many, many people already working to repair the dike-- the people of North Vietnam are very hard workers--and they had, uhh, carts--there were both men and women--and they had, uhh, shovels, and they had, uhh, what we call (stamps) I guess--what you pound the earth down with--and uhh, they never stopped while we were there. They kept, uhh, working, uhh, constantly." [recording ends]

You have just listened to former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, now in North Vietnam, speaking about U.S. bombing raids in Thai Binh Province.

Clark Comments on Haiphong Bombing

Hanoi in English to Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 6 Aug 72 B

HAVE RECORDING

[For a VNA International Service English version of this report see page K-4 of the 9 August DAILY REPORT]

[Text] On August 5 American lawyer Ramsey Clark and other members of the visiting team of the International Commission for Inquiry Into U.S. Crimes in Indochina were in Haiphong city to gather facts about U.S. crimes. Asked to comment on what he had seen, the former U.S. attorney general said: [Follows recorded male voice with American accent]

"Obviously there is massive destruction in this part of Haiphong. Uhh, just standing here on top of this debris you can see, umm, that many, many buildings were totally destroyed. We can be fortunate, I guess, that more people weren't killed. It's-- it's quite amazing that, uhh, when you look at the dimension of the destruction here--all this area--that, uhh, many, many people, uhh, weren't killed and so tragic as it is in any world--it could have been hundreds, umm--or even thousands (?of hundreds that) could have been killed in, uhh--in such, umm, terrible bombing and destruction in the living area of the city of Haiphong as we see here.

"Well, we know this--whether accidental or on purpose, uhh, you can stop the accidents as well as the purpose, and, uhh, there is absolutely, uhh, no excuse for bombing, of North Vietnam. There never has been and, uhh, it should never have happened, it should stop immediately, it should never happen again.

"I can't judge in any particular case, uhh, until I have all the facts and I will not judge until I have all the facts whether a particular situation was a mistake. Uhh, we intend to get as many of the facts as possible and, and we'll then make our judgment."

[Announcer] About the destruction of Phuoc Loc hamlet on the outskirts of Haiphong by U.S. warplanes on April the 16th last, Ramsey Clark had this to say: [Recorded male voice with American accent] "Well of course there can never be any justification for what happened here at Phuoc Loc. It's so pitiful that, uhh, the violence of technology would be used to destroy the lives of such a gentle and simple and beautiful people. We must learn the lessons of these tragedies and, umm, know that we create determination in the hearts of all people that there shall be peace and rules of law that can be firmly enforced to prevent these tragedies from every happening again.

"I've known Tony Lewis for many years and he's an extremely sensitive person. He was here at the village of Phuoc Loc shortly after the bombing occurred, and I agree fully [cough] what he said. Well, I feel very badly.

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The--the tragedy is the same, umm, whoever, umm, is the offender, and, umm, the thing we have to know is that, umh, there is still this enormous capacity in man to kill. America has shown its capacity to kill many times in many ways, and if we do not set aside our violence, we'll destroy ourselves." [recording ends]

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CRIMES INVESTIGATOR MACBRIDE CALLS BOMBING 'DELIBERATE'

Havana International Service in English 0210 GMT 11 Aug 72 C

[From the "Voice of Vietnam"]

[Text] I am convinced that the bombing of portions of North Vietnam's dikes that we have visited was deliberate, declared Sean MacBride, former foreign minister of Ireland and president of the international committee on human rights. In an interview for the "Voice of Vietnam" and PRELA news agency, MacBride said that (?on) his visit to Nam Ha Province, he saw a dike bombed in various places along a stretch he would estimate as almost a mile long. We concentrated our efforts on determining whether what Nixon has said about the dikes is correct or not, and after this visit, he said, I can affirm without a doubt that the hydraulic system of North Vietnam has been bombed deliberately. The attacks have been concentrated. They have been directed, not only at the top of the dikes, but also along the (?bases) to undermine their foundations. This bombing operation is being carried out in the rainy season, thereby endangering the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and is designed to destroy crops as well, said MacBride.

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Sean MacBride was foreign minister of Ireland from 1947 to 1951, and also held an important position in the republican army. Just like in the Second World War, he said, here we have found cities completely destroyed, like Nam Dinh, the third most important city of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. We have visited villages and hamlets. I don't have even the slightest doubt that a systematic and deliberate bombing is being carried out against the civilian population, stressed MacBride. One of the factors we have been able to confirm on our visit is that churches and hospitals have also been attacked. Hanoi's main hospital was bombed. How can one argue that this was by error if this was a hospital well-known for years? I was in Phat Diem MacBride continued, the Catholic center of Vietnam. Here the churches occupied some 20 square acres. Construction of the churches began in 1842 and they formed a beautiful fusion of gothic and Asian sculpture. The principal church here was bombed. Others were seriously damaged from the attacks. It is evident that there is no military objective in the vicinity of Phat Diem.

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Why are these bombings being carried out? This is the question which must be asked of the U.S. authorities by public opinion and a precise answer demanded, declared MacBride, going on. These are deliberate attacks whose victims are mostly old people, women, and children. Today we saw a child burned by napalm. This is an insult to humanity and public opinion everywhere.

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U.S. IMPERIALISM CALLED NUMBER ONE ENEMY OF ASIAN PEOPLES

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Aug 72 B

[Station commentary: "Let Us Heighten Vigilance and Powerfully Fight Against U.S. Imperialism, the New Fascism of the Era"]

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[Text] On 15 August 1945, more than 3 months after the annihilation of German fascism, the Japanese fascists unconditionally surrendered.

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