

Capital Clique Pressing for N. Viet Raid

By DANIEL MASON

AN INFLUENTIAL group in the government at Washington is pressing hard for bombing and raiding North Vietnam. Late May or early June is the target date for these reckless elements in the Pentagon, CIA and State Department.

This objective of an attack on North Vietnam was in a long dispatch April 13 from Washington by William Beecher, Wall Street Journal reporter.

Reporting that the Pentagon "is fast arming South Vietnam with a bomber force capable of devastating air attacks on industrial and military targets in North Vietnam," Beecher added that "some Administration policy-makers are debating whether the hope of thus halting Hanoi's support for Red Guerrillas below the border might conceivably outweigh the risk of escalating the Vietnam conflict into Korean-war dimensions."

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore), revealed last week in a Senate speech that while "the figure 15,000 or 15,500 continues to be used" as the number of U.S. soldiers in South Vietnam, he had been advised "out of the Pentagon," by reporters, that "there are already 18,000 American boys over there."

"We know," said Morse, several days later, that if the war in South Vietnam "is escalated into North Vietnam the plan is to use nuclear weapons. It is not possible to put conventional troops into North Vietnam and win."

It appears that the Pentagon would like to make it appear that the vastly built-up air force and other military groupings that may be used in the attacks on North Vietnam will be manned by personnel from the army of the US puppet military dictatorship in Saigon. The direct lie to such pretensions was given in letters from a U.S. flyer, who died in combat in South Vietnam last March 23. Capt. Edwin G.

Shank, Jr., 27, wrote his wife in Winamac, Ind., last December: "So far I have 55 kills credited to me and one .50 cal. gun. I am not proud of killing, but I am proud of my skill. It is necessary in this job."

Later Shank wrote: "We asked if we could fly an American flag over here. The answer was no. They say the Viet Cong will get pictures of it and make bad propoganda. Let them know America is in it."

These letters from the dead U.S. flyer, which appeared in the Chicago Tribune, April 5, make clear the direct involvement of U.S. military forces and underscore the probability that it will be U.S. flyers, disguised or not, who would be used in any invasion of North Vietnam. Mounting demands, however, for getting the U.S. out of Viet-

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Monday, April 13, 1964

Strike at Hanoi?

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nam are flooding Congress and the newspapers. In most cases, the newspapers have suppressed the letters, but evidence of this widespread anger against involvement in South Vietnam was dramatically demonstrated in the March 29 issue of the Rochester, N.Y., Democrat and Chronicle, with a full-size page devoted to letters attacking the U.S. war against South Vietnam.

On March 30, Sen. Morse had denounced in the Senate, what he called "McNamara's War in South Vietnam." As an appendix to that speech, he inserted in the Congressional Record 26 pages, in fine print, of letters opposing U.S. involvement including those from U.S. soldiers now in Vietnam.

In the Senate April 3 Sen.

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