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RIS 78 (OUT OF SEQUENCE)

L.L.

TASS STATEMENT ON BOMBING

L191826 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1812 GMT
19 DEC 72 L

(TASS STATEMENT--TASS)

(TEXT) MOSCOW DECEMBER 19 TASS--FOLLOWS A TASS STATEMENT:

"ON DECEMBER 18 THE U.S. AIR FORCE SUBJECTED THE CAPITAL OF THE DRV HANOI AND PORT HAIPHONG TO MASSIVE BOMBING AND STRAFING RAIDS. THERE ARE VICTIMS AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF THE DRV AND SERIOUS MATERIAL DAMAGE IS INFLICTED. IT IS CLEAR FROM A WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT, THAT THIS REPRESENTS A RESUMPTION OF WIDE SCALE AMERICAN AIR RAIDS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

THE NEW ESCALATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS BY THE USA AGAINST THE DRV CAN ONLY BE REGARDED AS AN ATTEMPT TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THE VIETNAMESE SIDE IN ORDER TO COMPEL IT TO ACCEPT THE AMERICAN TERMS FOR A VIETNAM SETTLEMENT.

THIS PARTICULAR DECISION OF WASHINGTON FLAGRANTLY DISAGREES WITH NUMEROUS PROTESTATIONS MADE BY THE U.S. LEADERS ABOUT THEIR WISH TO SEEK MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE REMAINING INCOORDINATED PROBLEMS. NO PRETEXTS, INVENTED IN A BID TO JUSTIFY THE BRUTAL BOMBINGS, CAN HIDE THE FACT THAT WE ARE FACED WITH NEW AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS THE USA IS TAKING AGAINST A SOVEREIGN STATE. THE ACTIONS CAN ONLY COMPLICATE THE SITUATION, PROLONG THE BLOODSHED AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO REACH AGREEMENT.

THE SOVIET PEOPLE ARE INDIGNANT IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE NEW PIRATIC ACTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE AMERICAN MILITARY. THEY DEMAND IMMEDIATE STOPPAGE OF THE ACTIONS AND SPEEDY SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON STOPPING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE TO VIETNAM.

* [TASS HAS BEEN EMPOWERED TO DECLARE THAT THE GOVERNING CIRCLES OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE GIVING THE MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE STEP UP IN U.S. MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE DRV.]

19 DEC 1850Z DEH/CAJ