

ZIEGLER DECLARED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS "NOT GOING TO ALLOW THE PEACE TALKS TO BE USED AS A COVER FOR ANOTHER ENEMY OFFENSIVE."

THE PRESIDENT, HE SAID, "WILL CONTINUE TO ORDER WHATEVER ACTION HE CONSIDERS NECESSARY BY SEA AND AIR" TO DEAL WITH "AN ENEMY BUILDUP THAT COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER OFFENSIVE IN THE SOUTH."

ZIEGLER SAID THE ACTION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY NIXON OUTLINED IN HIS MAY'S SPEECH AND SAID THE POLICY "WILL CONTINUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A SETTLEMENT IS ARRIVED AT. . ."

LAIRD BRIEFLY: 3RD GRAF. JC110PES DEC 18

FBIS 48

VNA ON BOMBING NORTH OF 20TH PARALLEL

B181754 HANOI VNA IN ENGLISH 1745 GMT 18 DEC 72B

(TEXT) HANOI VAN DECEMBER 18--(AT) ABOUT 8:00 HRS THIS EVENING, THE U.S. SENT MANY WAR PLANES TO LAUNCH MASSIVE ATTACKS AGAINST POPULATED CENTRES IN MANY PROVINCES AND TOWNS NORTH OF THE 20TH PARALLEL, INCLUDING HANOI, HAIPHONG AND QUANG BINH, VINH PHU, HA TAY, HOA BINH. . .(ELIPSES AS RECEIVED)

U.S. PLANES IN MANY WAVES SAVAGELY RAIDED INHABITED QUARTER INSIDE AND OUTSIDE HANOI.

THE AIR MARAUDERS HAD TO PAY DEARLY FOR THEIR CRIMES.

ACCORDING TO FIRST REPORTS, THE ARMED FORCES IN HANOI AND VINH PHU ALONE SHOT DOWN FOUR U.S. JET PLANES AND CAPTURED A NUMBER OF U.S. PILOTS

THESE NEW DOWNINGS BROUGHT TO 4,082 THE TOTAL OF U.S. PLANES SHOT DOWN OVER NORTH VIETNAM SO FAR.

18 DEC 1819Z EH/TM

600

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SECRET