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U.S. CONTINUES ACTS OF WAR IN NORTH AND SOUTH

[Article; Hanoi, Nhan-dan, Vietnamese, 23 November 1968, p 4]

Because of pitiful defeats in their war of aggression in the North and the South, and because of the pressure of worldwide public opinion, including that of America itself, the U.S. imperialists were forced, on 1 November 1968, to unconditionally cease bombing and all other air, naval, and artillery attacks on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. But they have not yet ceased war-provoking operations against North Vietnam, and they continue to bomb and attack the southern part of the demilitarized zone.

In South Vietnam, they have concentrated the aircraft carriers and battleships of the 7th Fleet, including the recently added New Jersey, on carrying out savage air and artillery attacks against the coastal population and against the cities, including the Saigon suburbs. They are continuing to mount sweep operations, destroying large areas and killing civilians. On 5 November, the Saigon puppet regime declared a state of war in South Vietnam, with the aim of terrorizing the people more, stifling the press, and kidnaping youths from the areas under their temporary control to use for cannon fodder. The American imperialists are continuing their war policy, increasing the enforced conscription for 1969 so there will be more soldiers to throw into the Vietnam war of aggression.

The American planes continued to fly reconnaissance missions over the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. In just the first 15 days of November, they carried out 190 missions with manned and unmanned observation planes. They carried out about 140 missions with reconnaissance aircraft over 23 provinces, cities, and the Vinh Linh Region. U.S. spy planes infiltrated the area from Thanh Hoa to Vinh Linh nearly 100 times, carrying out all types of reconnaissance, photography, and provocation. The Hanoi air space was invaded by spy planes six times; the Haiphong area, 18 (compared to 11 times in all of October 1968). On 3 November,

Associated Press reported, "The U.S. is using reconnaissance aircraft and satellites with photographic and other reconnaissance equipment to spy on Vietnam." On 9 November, they reported, "The U.S. intends to use whatever means necessary, including containment firepower, to rescue reconnaissance pilots downed over North Vietnam during the bombing pause. Containment firepower means attacks on and destruction of anti-aircraft artillery, machine guns, and infantry weapons of the enemy."

Three flights were the least flown in one day (4 November); 19 flights were the most (12 November). Besides the high altitude reconnaissance planes, like the SR-71 and the U-2, the American imperialists used all kinds of armed jet aircraft like the F-4, F-8, and the RF-5C, and armed propeller-driven aircraft like the AD-6 and the OV-10A. These aircraft operated at 1,000 to 2,000 meter altitudes, disturbing people at work in the fields and fishing in the rivers and along the coast. On 13 November, U.S. artillery fired rounds randomly along the Ben Hai River; some of them fell on this side. U.S. battleships still loiter off the coast from Thanh Hoa to the DMZ, carrying on spy activities and provocations.

In summary, the war-loving U.S. imperialists have for the past 15 days continued to increase their war of aggression in South Vietnam, and they have continued to commit acts of provocation against the North. But the more they obstinately refuse to discard their aggressive ambitions, the more they keep the people of Vietnam on their guard with determination to fight and win victory and ready to answer with mortal blows. In the past period, the military and civilians in the North shot down four U.S. aircraft, bringing the number of enemy aircraft downed in the North to 3,245.

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