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# DOD Official Denies Strikes Near Hanoi

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — A spokesman at the Pentagon challenged North Vietnamese claims Sunday that U.S. planes had attacked the outskirts of Hanoi.

The spokesman said that, as earlier reported by U.S. officials, the attacks ceased at 6 p.m. EST Saturday and that "the strikes all were south of the 19th Parallel."

The spokesman also challenged Communist reports that five of the attacking U.S. planes had been shot down.

"We have no reports of any of the planes being shot down," the

## Hanoi Blasts Laird Denial

PARIS (AP)—North Vietnam's delegation to the Paris peace talks said Sunday that denial by U.S. Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird that American planes bombed above the 19th parallel was "an intolerable provocation"

In a statement, a spokesman said North Vietnam and "the entire Vietnamese people severely warn the Nixon administration" about the United States' renewed bombing, and repeated an admonition that the raids "seriously threaten the Paris conference on Vietnam."

Hanoi asserted it had no "understanding" with the U.S., about permitting unarmed reconnaissance aircraft to overfly North Vietnamese territory.

The statement said Laird's denial that U.S. planes had attacked a U.S. pilots detention camp and places in the region of Haiphong, Quang Ninh, Ha Tay, Hoa Binh and Hanoi were made "in order to reduce the extreme gravity of the Nov. 21, 1970, acts of war against the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam."

"The delegation of the government of the DRVN to the Paris conference on Vietnam resolutely and totally rejects these . . . insolent and deceptive statements of Laird's," the spokesman said.

spokesman said, "and according to information available there is nothing to indicate to me that any have been shot down."

He would not say how many planes were involved in the at-

SAIGON (AP)—The U.S. Command reported Sunday that an Air Force F105 fighter-bomber crashed in the Plain of Jars in north central Laos after an operational failure and that both crewmen were rescued in good condition.

tack, which Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird said Saturday night were of "limited duration, and protection reaction air strikes."

Laird Saturday also warned that the United States would "continue to take protective action," but the spokesman today said he had no information of any further attacks after the Saturday cessation.

The State Department had no comment to make on the attacks and referred all queries to the Pentagon.

Meanwhile congressional criticism of the new air strikes against North Vietnam continued.

Sen. Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., said the raids pointed to the shortcomings of the administration's policy of "Vietnamization."

"These raids and the peril which they pose for expansion rather than contraction of the war in Southeast Asia demonstrate again the danger and inadequacy of a policy of Vietnamization," Javits said in a statement issued through his office.

Javits' statement followed sharp criticism Saturday night from other Senate colleagues.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield said the resumption of air strikes in North Vietnam, however limited, would retard the administration's peace efforts and draw the United States more deeply into Vietnam.

Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., said it was "sheer folly" to believe that anything could be accomplished by the renewed air attack.