

Bombing North Vietnam's Dikes Would Drown and Starve Its People

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blatant even we aren't gullible enough to believe them?

How Dare They Defend Themselves

The public is being prepared for the bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong industrial complex. An AP dispatch from Vienna (*Le Monde*, July 4-5) quotes an Albanian labor union official just back from Hanoi who declared with an almost audible sneer that all the Russians had sent there were "some medicines, two hundred bicycles and five accordions." But our military through Hanson Baldwin (*New York Times*, July 4) leak intelligence reports of "huge crates" being unloaded from Communist-flag ships at Haiphong with "what are believed to be weapon, ammunition and military supplies" which "may have" included latest model Migs. "Unconfirmed reports" (they have to be pretty "unconfirmed" to rank as such with military intelligence) even say the North Vietnamese "now have, or will eventually be provided with, ground-to-ground ballistic missiles with a range in excess of 1,000 miles". This triggered a flood of similar stories and a State Department statement July 6 estimating that there soon would be four SAM (surface-to-air missile) sites, each with six missiles, outside Hanoi. On July 7, as we write, House Republican Leader Gerald Ford has just issued a statement calling for air strikes "before the enemy uses the weapons against the side of freedom." Even slant-wise, these missiles cannot shoot further than 40 miles. They are purely defensive, but can shoot down even U2s at altitudes of at least 80,000 feet. In the Cuban crisis we at least had the excuse that IRBMs placed in Cuba could reach much of the U.S. mainland. Here all the SAMs can do is reach our attacking planes.

There may be worse in the offing: bombing of the North Vietnamese dikes. These support the irrigation works of the Red River delta. Bombing the dikes has been discussed several times in the French press but has been blacked out of the American. In its July 4-5 issue *Le Monde* speculates whether the dikes will be our next target. In its July 6 issue it carries an article by the famous agricultural expert, René Dumont, describing the enormous effort put into the irriga-

Shastri Doesn't Feel Like A Domino

Mr. COLLINGWOOD (CBS News): If South Vietnam, for instance, fell into the Communist camp, you do not think that that would increase the threat to India and the countries of Southeast Asia?

Prime Minister SHASTRI of India: I do not think so, because there are other Asian countries which of course—they are not Communist as such, but they are progressive and radical in their outlook and approach. I should not think that once Vietnam is given freedom to live as they like, they would come under the clutches of the Chinese. . . .

Mr. KALB (CBS News): Yes—but wouldn't the victory of communism in South Vietnam, a communism that has been nourished and supported by both North Vietnam and Communist China, certainly whet the appetites of Communists throughout Asia?

Prime Minister SHASTRI: Well, the Soviet Union, they are also communists. And yet they believe in peaceful co-existence. . . . Similarly, I think Vietnam may also adopt the same policy.

—*Face the Nation*, June 27.

tion system to meet the needs of overpopulated North Vietnam. The most tempting moment for our military, especially if they meet serious defeats in the South during the summer, will come at the end of the rainy season in August, when the waters are at their height. Blowing up the great dikes to the North of Hanoi would be comparable to an H-bomb in its effect, flooding the entire delta region, wiping out the summer rice crop and drowning from two to three million people. North Vietnam could survive the loss of the industries it has built up since 1954 but to bomb the dikes would mean starvation. Destruction of dikes was one of the war crimes for which Seyss-Inquart, chief of the Nazi occupation in Holland, was hanged at Nuremberg. The Hague Convention years before had made such action a violation of international law but Goering pleaded at the trial, "In a life and death struggle there is no legality." Has this become our viewpoint, too, even though Vietnam is hardly a life and death matter for us? The bombardment of the dikes would be genocide.

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