

NYTimes  
**REPORT OF DAMAGE  
 TO HANOI HOSPITAL  
 CONFIRMED BY U.S.**

**Pentagon Says Airport Was  
 Also Hit—It Denies That  
 Blows Were Intentional**

By ANTHONY RIPLEY  
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 — A Pentagon spokesman confirmed today for the first time reports of damage to the Bach Mai Hospital and Gia Lam Airport in Hanoi during heavy air raids last month over North Vietnam but he denied that the damage was either massive or intentional.

Jerry W. Friedheim, Pentagon spokesman, said at a morning news briefing:

"It appears that some limited accidental damage has occurred to some facilities at Gia Lam Airport and at a hospital the enemy calls Bach Mai. The exact extent of this damage is uncertain, as is its cause. Our information does not square with Hanoi's propaganda claims of massive destruction at these sites."

**Delay Not Explained**

Mr. Friedheim would give no reason for the long delay in conceding damage to the big civilian hospital and the civilian airport.

Damage to civilian buildings had been the subject of a growing number of reports from the Hanoi Government, from American antiwar observers visiting Hanoi, and from French, Japanese and Swedish newsmen there.

Photographs and motion pictures of the damaged hospital have been circulated around the world. Accounts of witnesses in Hanoi also mentioned "target bombing" of civilian areas and several mentioned the destruction on Kham Thien Street in a residential area near the central railroad station.

United States Government sources reported that the Hanoi radio broadcast an editorial today urging civilians to continue their evacuation from "popu-

lated cities and towns, industrial sites, especially Hanoi and Haiphong." According to a translation made available here, the broadcast stated:

"Let each of us endeavor to implement the policy according to which only people required for combat, combat support, production and communications and transportation activities remain in the cities."

In his briefing this morning, Mr. Friedheim twice stressed that "our policy remains one of targeting only military targets in North Vietnam" and he repeatedly said that many reports from Hanoi were heavily

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laced with propaganda.

He said there had been reports of "total destruction, blown to smithereens, intentionally bombed three days running" and he said that such reports "do not square with our information."

In the cautious, qualified language he has used in such briefings for more than a week, Mr. Friedheim said he was not sure whether the damage had been caused by bombs, by downed American or North Vietnamese aircraft or by falling antiaircraft missiles.

"We regret any such accidental damage from whatever source," he said, "but we reiterate that our strikes have been targeted only at military targets."

The raids, the heaviest of the Vietnamese war, began Dec. 18 after the collapse of the peace negotiations in Paris. Saturday the White House announced that President Nixon had ordered a halt in the heavy bombing north of the 20th Parallel and that his adviser on national security, Henry A. Kissinger, would resume private negotiations with Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam on Jan. 8 in Paris.

A White House spokesman said Mr. Kissinger, who has been on vacation at Palm Springs, Calif., met late today with the President.

Although the Pentagon has never before linked the bombings directly with the negotiations, today, at the regular White House briefing, Gerald L. Warren, the deputy press secretary, said in response to a question, "If you look, you will find that when serious negotiations were entered into there was a discontinuance of bombing above the 20th Parallel."

He added that the current bombing limitation would "remain effect as long as serious negotiations were under way."

At the Pentagon, Mr. Friedheim said the Bach Mai Hospital was close to rail yards, oil storage sites and other military

targets on the southern edge of Hanoi. The airport is near a rail yard across the city, he said.

Previously, Mr. Friedheim had denied that American bombs had hit a 1,000-bed hospital. The Bach Mai Hospital has 950 beds and Mr. Friedheim said earlier that he was not sure what had struck the building.

However, he continued his previous flat denial of North Vietnamese charges that American bombs might have hit the "Hanoi Hilton," the camp in the city where American prisoners of war are held.

Mr. Friedheim said that in addition to the 15 B-52's that the Pentagon has announced as shot down in the air war,

he thought that another "half a dozen" had been damaged and that some would presumably not be able to fly again.

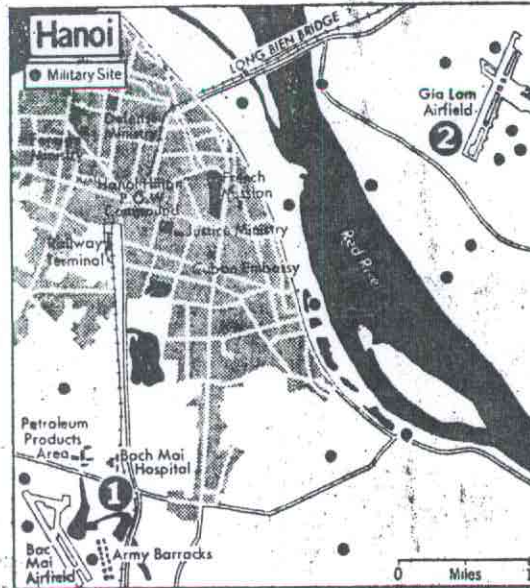
The lack of previous announcements on civilian damage seems consistent with a general Pentagon policy of regularly avoiding the topic.

After the French mission was struck by bombs Oct. 11, the United States waited about three weeks before confirming that it had been hit by mistake.

The Rev. Michael Allen, associate dean of the Yale University Divinity School, who returned from Hanoi yesterday along with others in the antiwar movement said of the Bach Mai Hospital, "By all standards I know, the hospital was destroyed."

Mr. Allen, Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General; Julian Bond, Georgia state legislator, and Patricia Simon of Newton, Mass., appealed to Americans to help rebuild the Bach Mai Hospital. They asked for con-

tributions to a group called Medical Aid for Indochina, Inc., which has set a goal of \$3-million. He said \$250,000 had already been contributed.



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Pentagon confirmed that Bach Mai Hospital (1) and Gia Lam airfield (2) had been damaged in raids on Hanoi.