

'Mr. Nixon Is Not Angry'

Another Christmas, More Bombs

By Mary McGroarty
Washington Star News

Washington
On the third day of the bombing, Henry Kissinger appears at his favorite Washington restaurant the Sans Souci (literal translation "Without care"). He is with a pretty companion. It is a signal to the country. If the man who proclaimed that peace was "at hand" on October 26 can show his face, obviously the war's heaviest raids are no cause for national shame or for interruption of civilized lifestyle.

The President, we are told on Monday, is bombing North Vietnam back to the Stone Age to insure that the North Vietnamese would comprehend the extent of his anger.

Personal View

He was going into the Ministry after he came back," his sister said. "God rest ye merry gentle."

Two days later, the White House calls in some sympathetic correspondents to correct this impression. He is not angry. And in proof of

the equality of spirit in which he has commanded the new slaughter, he demonstrated his endless compassion for humankind by throwing the full weight of his great office against a flackout of television coverage of professional football games on Christmas weekend.

The man who has everything has given bombs for Christmas before. Last year, you remember, he ordered heavy protective reaction raids over the North to observe the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Hope the herald angels sing.
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stiff letter from President Nixon to President Thieu. The contents are leaked. No signing, no aid. No one asks Haig if he gave Thieu a wink with the letter. There is now no accord to sign.

Behind the scenes, officials sob out details of the deception. The tricky North Vietnamese have tricked innocent Richard Nixon into thinking they really want a cease-fire. The minute his back was turned they slipped in new conditions. That is, however, not the reason for the bombing.

Ziegler explains that it will continue until "all our prisoners are released."
Ten B-52s and a contest of smaller planes are shot down. Fifty-five more Americans are lost or will be spending Christmas in North Vietnamese prison camps as a consequence of these missions of mercy.

On Thursday, Radio Hanoi announced that American planes have struck an American prison camp, the one known familiarly as the "Hanoi-Hilton."

The Pentagon is momentarily stunned. It puts out "no comment." Friedheim then comes with the week's most mind-bending line.
"We have not targeted any place we feel prisoners might be located."
By the time of the evening news shows, the Pentagon is counter-attacking. North Vietnamese, it says, are to blame for "violating the Geneva Convention" by exposing prisoners to the hazards of war.

All is calm. All is bright.