

# Hanoi Public Calm About News of Drive

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HANOI, North Vietnam, Feb. 4 (Agence France - Presse)— With war fever gripping all of the other Indochinese capitals, Hanoi is calm and serene.

People on the street seem to have little to say about the new South Vietnamese operation near Laos except to comment philosophically that it is an expected episode in the American "escalation" of the war.

The official press agency devoted only a few lines to the new development in its "round-

up of the world situation." It said: "On Jan. 30, a campaign of violent bombings began in southern Laos, at the same time as tens of thousands of Saigon troops massed on the frontier."

Officials of the Pathet Lao headquarters here confirmed this analysis, adding that according to their military information many South Vietnamese commando groups had been dropped into southern Laos to prepare for an incursion across the border. The sources said that some of the

groups had already been attacked by leftist forces.

Meanwhile, daily life here proceeds as usual. The weather has turned a bit cold and people walk along the streets wrapped in heavy coats and wearing an astonishing variety of hats: cossack furs, Mao-type Chinese furs, Lenin-style caps, Basque berets and even felt hats for the older people.

The lanterns of the Tet holiday still shine in the markets, which are well supplied. Vegetables and poultry are particularly abundant, and prices are stable and relatively low.