

U.S. BOMBERS END INTENSIFIED RAIDS ON NORTH VIETNAM

Command Lists Targets as
Airfields, Supply Depots
and Antiaircraft Sites

1,000 STRIKES IN 5 DAYS

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Further Attacks Indicated if
Enemy Does Not Curtail
'Significant' Build-Up

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 30—The United States command announced today the end of its intensified bombing of North Vietnam after five days of raids. It also stated for the first time that the targets of the heaviest attacks against the north in three years—involving 1,000 strikes—were airfields, supply depots and anti-aircraft sites.

The announcement was coupled with a strong suggestion that further raids would be carried out unless the North Vietnamese stopped trying to build up "significant" war supplies and halted their mounting challenge to American bombers over the Ho Chi Minh Trail network.

Three planes were shot down during the raids, a spokesman said. One Navy pilot was rescued and six were still missing, he said.

The Hanoi radio has reported that 19 jets were brought down and "a number" of pilots killed and captured.

Heaviest Raids Since '68

The raids, which began Sunday morning, brought the most sustained bombardment of the North since President Johnson ended general air attacks there in November, 1968.

The command said that on Sunday 46 bombers participated and one Air Force jet was lost. On each of the following days, the statement said, about 240 strikes took place.

No information about the results of the strikes has been released before. Sources in the command said that bad weather over the North hampered the bombings and delayed damage assessment by photo reconnaissance planes.

Targets Are Listed

The raids were conducted in reaction to what allied commanders called a massive build-up of war supplies by North Vietnam destined for a possible enemy offensive against Cambodia and South Vietnam and in retaliation for a sudden increase in North Vietnamese air and missile attacks on the American planes that bomb northern Laos and the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

"These air strikes were directed against surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft artillery units, air-defense radar sites, the enemy's logistics and P.O.L. [Petroleum-Oil-Lubricant] build-up north of the D.M.Z. and particularly opposite major passes into Laos," the command's statement read.

"Also included in the tar-

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gets were certain airfields south of the 20th Parallel from which there has been increasing MIG aircraft activity in recent weeks," it said.

In the past, the command has announced only attacks on anti-aircraft sites that had specifically threatened American aircraft with radar tracking or by firing on them.

As if to underscore the warning implied in the expansion of enemy targets, the command's statement continued:

"The North Vietnamese have been told repeatedly that action would be taken to protect the lives of United States military personnel should the enemy threaten our aircraft or engage in efforts to achieve a significant logistics buildup of violating the D.M.Z."

The most explicit of these warnings came last month when President Nixon asserted that the United States would continue to use its air power in Indochina to support allied troops in South Vietnam and Cambodia, to compel Hanoi to release American prisoners of war, and to protect the remaining American troops in South Vietnam.

The intensity of the American air war, the President said, would depend on what the North Vietnamese did on their supply trails and on the battlefield.

The President's warning came as the enemy was making strong advances and large amounts of supplies had begun moving down the Ho Chi Minh Trail network. North Vietnamese troops drove the United States-supported anti-Communist troops out of the Plaine des Jarres in Northern Laos and shot down five American jets in Northern Laos the week before Christmas. Four more American pilots joined the list of prisoners of war.

More recently the North Vietnamese have begun to attack allied positions on the Boloven Plateau, which anchors the southern end of the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the Laotian pan-

One U.S. Combat Death Is Lowest Toll Since '65

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 30 (UPI)—One American soldier was killed in combat in Indochina last week, the United States military command reported today. It was the lowest figure since February, 1965, when no one was killed. The command also reported 29 wounded in the week ended Saturday.

Military sources attributed the low casualty toll to the low level of enemy activity during the Christmas cease-fire.

South Vietnamese casualties were reported as 287 killed and 633 wounded. The previous week's toll was 405 dead and 723 wounded.

Enemy casualties rose to 1,035 from 1,026 the previous week, the allies reported. There was no explanation for the increase.

The United States command said today American war deaths since the beginning of 1961 were 45,627, with 302,396 wounded and 10,023 killed in nonhostile incidents.

handle. In Cambodia, North Vietnamese soldiers are widening their areas of control.

Washington responded to these ominous developments with the air strikes.

Airfields Not Specified

The command did not specify which North Vietnamese airfields had been struck, but it is believed that they included the recently upgraded landing strips at Baithuong and Quanlang, both just below the 20th Parallel.

The two strips were improved to handle supersonic MIG-21 jets, which previously had been stationed around Hanoi. By moving their best planes south, American air strategists believed, the North Vietnamese were getting into position to challenge the United States fighter-bombers and B-52's, which drop hundreds of tons of bombs daily on enemy troops

in Laos and on the supply trail.

A third airfield, on the central coast at Donghoi, may also have been struck.

Most of the strikes were directed against the area just north of the demilitarized zone and beneath the 18th Parallel, the command stated.

This would take in the province of Quangbinh, which the North Vietnamese radio said had taken the brunt of the bombing. The area is strategically important because it is the final assembly point for war supplies destined for troops in Southern Laos, Cambodia and South Vietnam. Its three crucial mountain passes into Laos at Mugia, Ban-karai and Banravang were heavily bombed during the raids.

Saigon Ends Cambodia Drive

SAIGON, Dec. 30 (AP)—Some 25,000 South Vietnamese troops today ended a 39-day drive in eastern Cambodia against staging areas of three North Vietnamese divisions. The campaign along Route 7 was designed to head off a dry-season offensive into Military Region III of South Vietnam, which includes Saigon and 11 surrounding provinces.

South Vietnamese military headquarters said 1,336 North Vietnamese troops had been killed, many by American planes. But only 195 weapons

were reported captured, indicating that the death toll might be considerably inflated. South Vietnamese losses were reported as 86 soldiers killed and 226 wounded. The South Vietnamese said 17 of their armored vehicles had been destroyed or damaged.

Some of the paratroopers in the drive were reportedly being shifted to the Central Highlands near the Cambodian border, where North Vietnamese troops were reported massing for an offensive.

Heavy fighting continued at two points north and south of Pnompenh, the Cambodian command reported. It said the road to the provincial capital of Prey Veng had been cut as the result of a battle 30 miles southeast of Pnompenh.

Supporters File