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## HOSPITAL BOMBING BY U.S. IS CHARGED

American, Back From North,  
Tells of Attack

An American correspondent who recently returned from a two-week trip to North Vietnam has charged that American planes bombed a North Vietnamese hospital compound on Dec. 26, near Thanhhoa, a city 80 miles south of Hanoi.

The reporter, Banning Garrett, quoted hospital officials as saying that the raids by four jet fighter-bombers had killed 9 people, wounded 11, destroyed two buildings and damaged three in the hospital complex.

A spokesman for the Pentagon said last night that he could not immediately obtain information with which to confirm or deny the report.

A communiqué broadcast by Hanoi on Dec. 26 reported that a civilian hospital had been bombed that day at Thanhhoa and that two United States pilots had died when their plane crashed near the city.

### 'Protective Reaction' Strikes

The reported attack on the hospital took place during a five-day period of the most intensive bombing of North Vietnam in three years. From Dec. 26 to 30, American bombers carried out 1,000 so-called "protective reaction" strikes against what United States military officials described as airfields, depots, and antiaircraft sites.

Mr. Garrett, who visited the hospital on Jan. 20, reported that four patients were among the fatalities.

"Only a huge crater" remained where one building stood, Mr. Garrett said, while two heavily damaged buildings contained "debris everywhere" and the "twisted remains of beds tangled in among the wreckage."

Mr. Garrett also said he had been shown a large, unexploded 750-pound bomb with United States markings on it.

He said he had been told by hospital officials that the roofs of the buildings were clearly marked with large red crosses.

### Bombing 'No Mistake'

Mr. Garrett quoted the hospital's assistant director, Vo Dinh Chi, as saying:

"The bombing of the hospital was no mistake. There is no cover, no trees; it is very visible. The planes came in high to avoid detection and then dove to attack the hospital before a warning could be given."

The doctors explained, Mr. Garrett said, that the worst damage had been caused by "a new type" of antipersonnel bomb, which consisted of "mother bombs" that covered a large area with hundreds of smaller bombs containing metal slivers.

Mr. Garrett, who is the editor of "Two Three Many Vietnams" published in 1971 by Harper & Row, visited North Vietnam during Jan. 14 to 28 as a correspondent of the Pacific News Service. A spokesman for the San Francisco-based agency described it as a service that does "independent reporting on Asia" and counts "20 major dailies" among its subscribers.