

# North Vietnamese Show Bombed Hospital, School

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THANH HOA, North Vietnam, pi

May 8—In the bomb-scarred provinces of Thanhhoa and Namha, where no military targets could be seen, this correspondent today visited a hospital and a school struck by American bombs.

If the raiding planes — described by the North Vietnamese as F-4 Phantoms — were aiming for military targets such as convoys, I saw no evidence. But, with about a dozen foreign newsmen, did see evidence of what the civilian population had suffered.

Our visits were part of an officially authorized trip to the two provinces in the central region of North Vietnam as well as to Nghean and Hatinh, which were reportedly bombed \* Friday, Saturday and yesterday. Only yesterday, our North Vietnamese hosts said, American planes hit more schools and hospitals.

Leaving in the middle of the night to avoid the bombing, we set out along deserted Route 1, which leads south to Saigon. The milestones had recently been repainted and the distances to towns in South Vietnam were clearly marked in red.

Soon we had to leave the main road for the relative safety of foothills to keep out of range of the ships of the Seventh Fleet.

## Almost Medieval and Modern

The groups of peasants chatting in the early-morning light made it hard to believe that the war had disturbed the flow of their lives. The almost medieval "technology" of rural Asia persists into the modern world.

While ferryboats are often pulled by handmade cables, bulldozers are hidden in camouflaged shelters to repair cratered roads. Bullock carts pull off to let five-ton Chinese-made trucks and Soviet-built missile trailers pass.

Other indications of this modern world are the frequency with which the word "maybay" — Vietnamese for "plane" — is heard and the habit, quickly adopted by travelers, often glancing anxiously at the sky when in the open.

At the end of the journey was the 600-bed Thanhhoa Provincial Hospital some 75 miles south of Hanoi. It was hard for the visitors to believe that the destruction, which was considerable, could have been the result of a mistake. The buildings, surrounded by rice fields, were also attacked last December, according to the North Vietnamese, and the damage was shown worldwide on television newsfilm.

The hospital's chief physician said that in the latest raid — on April 27 — 36 bombs hit, 12 of them 2,000-pounders and the rest antitank bombs that penetrated the concrete roofs of the hospital as well as the air-raid shelters.

In the 45-foot craters and the rubble the wreckage of operating tables and X-ray equipment could be seen. The hos-

tal has been evacuated to the mountains.

Six miles south, in the village of Dongyen, officials said five aircraft dropped five bombs on the primary school during morning classes, leaving 20 dead and 25 wounded. The village is shocked and silent.

We looked for the military targets that might have justified the raid, but there was nothing — just mud and straw huts.

The only apparent "radar" here — it gives only a few seconds warning — is supplied by children perched in TREES.

The primitive early warning system operates in most villages. As we were leaving Thanhhoa Province we heard the alert and could see missiles going up after planes while the pilots dropped their loads over a wide area.

It is at least six miles from the bombed villages to the nearest missile sites, and it was hard for us to see any justification for the raids.

\* S. 67, MAY