

Signs of War Everywhere in North Vietnam's Capital

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

a bomb attack Wednesday on a Soviet ship, the Grisha Akopyan, at Campha, the country's chief coal port. Foreign sources said the ship exploded Friday night after burning three days. No Soviet statement on this attack has been published here.

The intensified bombing of the last week was reported to have hit many nonmilitary targets in and near Hanoi.

On Thursday the Vietnam-Soviet Friendship Hospital, about a half mile from the Thong Nhat Hotel, was reported to have been damaged. North Vietnamese officials said the hospital, which stands on spacious grounds near the river, was marked with a Red Cross on the roof.

This morning this correspondent approached the hospital grounds just as loudspeakers gave the alert indicating that planes were 30 miles away. Four patients in blue hospital

gowns were waiting outside to go into the shelter if the siren sounded.

One patient, 50 years old, questioned through an interpreter, said a rocket attack came at 9 o'clock Thursday and wrecked one wing. "We were going to shelters," he said, "but six people were wounded by fragments."

A small outdoor café just behind Hanoi's zoo and botanical garden was reported hit on the day the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong resumed — Sunday, April 16.

On Sundays dance song and classical theater performances are usually scheduled under palms and live oaks in the zoo garden. But today it was nearly deserted, like most of the city's parks. A keeper was exercising two small bears, or possibly training them for the circus, which also was closed.

Visual reminders of the bombing and war are everywhere. In Hangdau Park a children's playground is now

marked with mounds — shelters.

The streets are full of individual shelters. These are just holes in the ground about two feet in diameter and four feet deep. They are lined with concrete cylinders and are covered with concrete lids. Men could be seen digging more of the shelters today and hundreds of the concrete sections were piled up in one square.

"Individual shelters look unpleasant" a North Vietnamese official said. "Westerners see insects in them. But they are not so dangerous as the American bombing."

In the face of the bombing and years of war, it is impossible for this visitor to detect any atmosphere of fear.

One diplomat learned the other day that his translator's children were in a village just bombed near Hanoi. He told her to take the day off to look for them. She worked through the day and rode her bicycle

that night to see them. She cycled 12 miles each way and spent hours waiting at the Red River.

A European Communist said he was near Haiphong when the area was heavily bombed last week. He said the family he was visiting kept eating right through the bombing, asking him about his faraway country.

"What strange people," this man said, "their tranquillity, their detachment after 25 years of this. We would not last a fortnight."

There are jokes, too. One is that a bombing is unlikely before 9 Sunday mornings because Seventh Fleet pilots are entitled to coffee first.

The scene in Hanoi is a mixture of the tranquil and the martial. It remains very much a tropical colonial city in appearance, with characteristic cream-colored three-story buildings and streets lined with trees. Locusts begin singing at 3 daily and there are gladioli in the markets.

Bicycles, Carts and Cars

The traffic is mostly bicycles, many ridden by attractive women in pajamalike black-silk trousers. There is an occasional cart pushed by a peasant or pulled by a water buffalo. Soviet-built cars and jeeps rush by, horns tooting.

Posters record the shooting down of American planes or urge greater productivity for the war effort.

Although official announcements speak of the "liberation forces" fighting in the South, identification of the North with the war effort is clear enough. One huge poster is a military map depicting how Quangtri was won. Women speak of husbands or sons "at the front."

Hoankiem Lake is in a lovely park with royal poinciana trees and an old temple. Today a loudspeaker broadcast a girlish song that sounded like something from "The Mikado." But its words were translated: "We are fighting for victories in the South."



Associated Press

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE: Caption provided with photo from North Vietnam says it shows Virgilio R. Pino, a Cuban surgeon, and Marina Lima Arretoy, Cuban nurse, center, operating on an 8-year-old boy in Namdinh City, capital of Namha Province, south of Hanoi. Youth was reportedly injured during U.S. air raid on May 12.