

JUN 15 1972

Podgorny

In Hanoi-

Raids Halt

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SAIGON — (AP) — The United States halted bombing attacks in the Hanoi region today because of the visit there of Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny, American informants reported.

The temporary suspension was viewed by some observers as a precautionary measure to avoid any incidents that might involve Podgorny during his tour of the Hanoi region.

Podgorny flew to Hanoi this morning after talks in Calcutta with Indian leaders on the war in Vietnam. Diplomats in Moscow believe he is on a peace mission.

In Washington, the White House declined to discuss the bombing suspension.

Presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler called it "an operational procedure and I'm not going to discuss it."

In its broadcasts monitored in Saigon, Radio Hanoi made no mention of Podgorny's visit.

Informants said it appeared unlikely that the American air raids would be suspended beyond his visit unless there is a political development.

The United States resumed the bombing of North Vietnam last April 6, a week after Hanoi launched an offensive across the DMZ into South Vietnam.