

JUN 25 1972
**Newsmen on a Visit
To Town Near Hanoi
See Factory Ruins**

NYTimes JUN 25 1972

The following dispatch was written by Jean Thoraval of Agence France-Presse:

HANOI, June 24—This correspondent and a few other members of the foreign press visited the town of Namdinh, a textile center about 60 miles south of Hanoi, today.

The town's commercial district was in total ruin. Utility poles and wires, apparently blasted by American B-52 bombing, littered the streets. Twisted drainpipes and wrought-iron balustrades produced a serpentine effect on the few building facades that remained standing.

The town's main streets were blocked with piles of broken concrete, bricks and other debris.

Half-destroyed and semi-legible signs identified a few shops and factories, one of them the "Weaving Cooperative." It was here that workers in the town produced handkerchiefs and other cotton textile goods.

In the midst of the rubble, townspeople were trying to salvage what remained of their plant. Young women were at work carting cotton, still wringing wet, in wheelbarrows.

Cave-Ins Feared

The salvage operation was risky because of the danger of cave-ins.

Another district of Namdinh that we visited was in similar condition.

Then, traveling cautiously for fear of further bombings, we made our way to the town's dikes, about 14 miles away. [The Hung, or Red, River, North Vietnam's largest stream, flows past Namdinh a short distance to the north.]

One of the embankments was completely cut. Several were gutted, with gaps in the dike itself and hollows, evidently caused by bombs, alongside. Deep cracks were visible everywhere. The landscape was almost what one might have expected to find in the moon.

Village officials feared that the embankments would continue to disintegrate. One man explained that battered, cracked dikes were more difficult to repair than completely demolished ones.