

# 2 More B-52s Shot Down

## --Heavy U.S. Raids Go On

### Reports of Damage to Embassies

Associated Press

Saigon

American warplanes kept up the heaviest attacks of the war against North Vietnam for the sixth straight day today and the U.S. command reported the loss of its ninth and tenth B-52 bombers. Between 12 and 14 more American flyers were reported missing.

The air blitz again centered on the Hanoi and Haiphong area. A Hanoi broadcast said the raids wrecked the country's biggest polyclinic hospital in Hanoi and damaged public utilities and residential areas.

There also were new reports of bomb damage to foreign diplomatic buildings in the capital and merchant ships at anchor in Haiphong, North Vietnam's largest port.

#### COSTLIEST

The U.S. plane losses are the costliest since the United States launched its first attacks over the North in August, 1964.

In addition to the ten B-52 bombers reported lost to enemy fire since bombing was renewed above the 20th parallel Monday night, the U.S. Command has acknowledged four smaller tactical fighter-bombers have been shot down.

At least 55 American airmen are listed by the command as missing. The figure may be as high as 57, depending on the number of crewmen aboard the latest B-52s reported downed.

All but seven of the crewmen were aboard B-52s, giant eight-jet strategic bombers that cost about \$8 million each.

The number of missing is more than 10 per cent of the 431 Americans who were known to be prisoners in North Vietnam before resumption of the bombing in the area of Hanoi, the North Vietnamese capital, and Haiphong, the main port.

Radio Hanoi says many of  
See Back Page

#### From Page 1

the pilots listed as missing in the new campaign have been taken captive, but no precise figure has been given.

The B-52s, America's most powerful warplanes, are spearheading the air attacks and encountering heavy barrages of up to 100 surface-to-air missiles a day.

#### NUMBER

The U.S. Command said the ninth and tenth B-52s were shot down yesterday morning in areas northeast and southwest of Hanoi. Under a tightened information policy, the command refused to report the specific number of airmen missing, but acknowledged that each bomber carries either six or seven crewmen.

Radio Hanoi has claimed three B-52s were shot down early yesterday along with one F-111 swing-wing fighter-bomber. It gave names of five U.S. officers it said were captured yesterday.

Hanoi's Vietnam News Agency said "the five had taken part in a predawn B-52 raid against populous areas in Hanoi which caused heavy destruction to many inhabited quarters and public utility establishments including the Bach Mai Hospital, the biggest polyclinic in North Vietnam, which was almost completely demolished."

#### DAMAGE

There were new reports of damage to property of non-belligerents in Hanoi and Haiphong yesterday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surendra Pal Singh announced to Parliament in New Delhi that the chancery building and staff headquarters at the Indian Embassy in Hanoi had been damaged by the U.S. bombings.

Singh declared "such ruthless bombings are a matter of the gravest concern for us." No members of the Indian Embassy staff were injured, he said.

Earlier, Egypt and Cuba reported their embassies in Hanoi were damaged by bombs this week. France's embassy was bombed last October, killing its ranking diplomat in Hanoi.

The British Foreign Office reported the 5970-ton British merchantman *Kim Seng*, was damaged by U.S. bombs Wednesday in Haiphong harbor. There was no word of any casualties.

China has charged that one of its merchant ships was damaged the same day at Haiphong and entered a vigorous protest. Earlier, a Polish ship was reported sunk in the harbor with the loss of three lives.

Another Hanoi broadcast said the "Hanoi Hilton," the prison camp for captured U.S. flyers, has been bombed the past two days. The Pentagon denied that the camp has been hit.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry reported that the Bai Mai Hospital in Hanoi, one of the few modern ones in North Vietnam, was hit by bombs but the extent of damage and casualties, if any, were not given.

The U.S. Command announced, however, it would no longer report specific number of airmen shot down and missing to keep the North Vietnamese from knowing how many men were aboard planes.

The latest two B-52s lost, the command said, were shot down Thursday morning in the vicinity of Hanoi. The two Navy A-6 fighter-bombers were shot down in the Haiphong area.

Although the command declined to say how the planes were lost, U.S. officials have said the American bombers have met hundreds of surface to air missiles in their runs over the North. There also have been reports of Soviet-built MIG interceptors in the air in an attempt to blunt the American strikes.