

# SF Examiner Hanoi Downs More B-52s

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Examiner News Services

SAIGON — American bombers raided North Vietnam again today, the seventh consecutive day of round-the-clock saturation bombing, military sources said. The U.S. Command refused to confirm a White House report that the bombing would stop for Christmas tomorrow.

The U.S. planes flew against what was probably the heaviest anti-aircraft missile fire of the war.

The U.S. Command said yesterday two more B-52 heavy bombers were shot down over North Vietnam on Friday, the ninth and tenth of the week.

Radio Hanoi claims 17 B-52s shot down since bombing was resumed against Hanoi and Haiphong last Monday night.

U.S. spokesmen declined to confirm a report from the Florida White House at Key Biscayne that U.S. jets would stop the bombing for 24 hours starting at sundown today as part of a Christmas truce being observed by both sides.

(President Nixon has approved a short Christmas halt in the Indochina bombing but will resume the intensive assaults on North Vietnam afterwards, the Washington Post reported in its Sunday edition.)

In Moscow, the Tass News Agency said U.S. air raids against Hanoi yesterday damaged the East Germany embassy and the Hungarian trade mission.

In the ground war, heavy fighting was reported in northernmost Quang Tri province and along the central coast. In the Central Highlands, Communist troops stepped up the pressure on Kontum City, 260 miles north of Saigon.

Since Monday night, the U.S. Command has announced the loss of 10 B-52s and four other warplanes — and a total of at least 55 missing airmen — since Monday night, when bombing was resumed above

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North Vietnam's 20th Parallel.

North Vietnam says it has shot down 17 B-52s and 25 other American planes and has captured "a great number" of pilots.

During the prior 7½ years that B-52s were used in Indochina, 12 were lost, only one of them in combat.

A Radio Hanoi broadcast monitored in Washington yesterday said that some U.S. pilots held prisoner at Hanoi were wounded in an American air attack Wednesday.

Earlier Hanoi had said only that "a number of residents" at the prison camp in the North Vietnamese capital had been injured. The broadcast yesterday said the camp was struck by U.S. bombers again Thursday but made no mention of casualties from the second raid.

The Defense Department said Friday that the North Vietnamese claim that American bombs struck the prison was "incorrect."

## Embassies Hit

Friday night, Radio Hanoi said American bombers hit the embassies of Egypt, India, Red Khmer Republic — Communist Cambodia — Cuba and the residence of the Albanian ambassador, all in Hanoi.

A U.S. spokesman said yesterday the command would reinstate its practice of listing the number of pilots missing in tactical fighter-bombers lost over the North. He said the command would not report the exact number of missing B-52 crewmen because the plane's crews vary in size.

Diplomatic sources in Saigon reported that Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport had sustained "very heavy" damage from American bombs. The main passenger terminal, runways and control facilities all were damaged, the sources said.

In yet another development, the South Vietnamese government announced a unilateral 24-hour cease-fire in South Vietnam only for Christmas Day. The Viet Cong earlier also announced unilateral cease-fires for Christmas and New Year's Day.