

# Report of a New U.S. Bomb Pause

## Brief Truce By Saigon And Reds

N.Y. Times Service

Saigon

There were indications today that the United States had temporarily halted all bombing in both North and South Vietnam in observance of a 24-hour New Year's Day cease-fire proclaimed by both the Communists and the Saigon government.

Spokesmen for the United States command, however, refused to confirm the pause.

The 12-day-old massive aerial campaign against the Hanoi-Haiphong region and other areas above the 20th parallel in North Vietnam had been stopped Saturday by President Nixon.

### EXPLANATION

In explaining the decision not to disclose whether there was a New Year's Day pause in the other parts of Vietnam, one American official said: "We want to keep our options open as much as possible and see what the other side does."

An official confirmation of the one-day bombing halt below the 20th parallel and in South Vietnam was expected later today, possibly along the pattern the U.S. command established at Christmas when it announced a 36-hour pause after it was over.

The New Year's cease-fire ends at 6 p.m. today for the Saigon government and one hour later for the Communists.

### RAIDS

Earlier yesterday, before the New Year's day bombing halt was believed to have begun, American fighter-bombers launched 211 tactical attacks over South Vietnam, a sharp increase over the previous day and the

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highest number since the intensive bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong area began December 18.

United States fighters yesterday also hit targets below the 20th parallel in the north, but the United States command released no details.

### HALT

The bombing of North Vietnam above the 20th Parallel was halted Saturday on orders from President Nixon. The secret peace negotiations between presidential aide Henry Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho are scheduled to resume January 3.

Saboteurs blew up a bridge on Highway 1 south of Da Nang in South Vietnam before dawn yesterday. The Viet Cong had declared that the shooting would not stop until 1 p.m. yesterday Saigon time.

Holiday truces in the past have been marked by violations, with each side blaming the other for attacks. The Saigon command recorded 63 violations in the Christmas cease-fire. There were no early violations reported in the present cease-fire.

### CLAIM

North Vietnam claimed yesterday that it scored its greatest victory in countering the U.S. aerial campaign against Hanoi and Haiphong. It said the American attacks were designed "to achieve nuclear-scale destruction without resorting to nuclear bombs." Hanoi has claimed that more than 2000 civilians were killed in the bombing.

The U.S. Command has acknowledged the loss of at least 27 aircraft, including 15 B-52s, and 93 airmen killed, captured or missing between December 18 and December 29. U.S. officials have also acknowledged that these are the costliest air losses sustained by the U.S. since the first raids against North Vietnam in August, 1964.

The raids continuing unabated below the 20th parallel, in Cambodia and in Laos were against Communist supply routes and installations.

### ROUTES

The network of supply routes known as the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos was among the targets. U.S. planes also were helping Laotian government forces battling North Vietnamese troops in the Plain of Jars in northern Laos.

North Vietnam reportedly already has stockpiled war materials along the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon.