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# Hanoi Aides Say They Expect Heavier

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HANOI, North Vietnam, May 16—North Vietnamese officials are telling diplomats and journalists that they expect heavier American bombing and other attacks before long and are prepared to meet them.

"The escalation has just begun," one official said. "Nixon can go on up other rungs of the ladder. Maybe this building will cease to exist."

He was speaking in the Foreign Ministry, an imposing legacy of French colonial rule. The official grinned and added, "But we shall just have to adapt ourselves to circumstances."

## Many Leave the City

So far as foreigners can tell, the Government is acting on the assumption that worse is ahead. For example, families whose children have been evacuated from Hanoi have been told to register them for school next September in country areas where they have gone. Most children and old people and many women have left Hanoi—about half the city's normal million population.

Informed sources said that the second phase of the evacuation—the removal of non-essential industry and services—has begun. If necessary, it is said, two more phases will be carried out—the closing of all industry and finally the removal of all civilians.

In Hanoi proper no bombs have fallen in the last three days, though there have been frequent alerts. Government spokesmen say that the bombing continues elsewhere and that the coast is still being shelled, though there is no way to confirm that here.

The small group of non-Communist diplomats here believe that the pause in the bombing of Hanoi is related to President Nixon's scheduled visit to Moscow next week. Several diplomats today expressed concern that the bomb-

ing might be intensified if the Soviet Union canceled the summit meeting at the last minute. Last week's bombing did some damage to the British commercial mission here and reportedly to the Chinese economic mission.

North Vietnamese say that they will continue fighting and stick to their demand for the ouster of South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu, no matter what the United States does. It is, of course difficult to appraise such statements on a brief visit. But experienced Westerners here uniformly say they believe in North Vietnam's determination.

An incident today may indicate the state of mind of the North Vietnamese.

This correspondent was talking with Col. Ha Van Lau, the former deputy chief of mission to the Paris peace talks who now heads the war crimes commission, a Government agency that reports on the effects of the bombing.

Colonel Lau was showing pictures of death and destruction and torn bodies caused, he said, by American antipersonnel bombs and rockets. Suddenly sirens sounded. We went to a public shelter nearby, a concrete tunnel 11 steps below ground—perhaps eight feet. It was a claustrophobic place. The

tunnel was less than six feet high at the center. In one stretch about 20 feet long 60 people crowded onto narrow benches at each side or stood in the middle. The alert lasted half an hour.

Everyone in the shelter except this correspondent was Vietnamese and all laughed and chatted throughout.

"You can see how we are," Colonel Lau remarked after a while. "Nixon cannot understand us."

"This is the seventh year of the war of destruction," he went on. "It could last 10 more years and we are still sure we would be victorious."

Colonel Lau was asked



READY FOR DEPLOYMENT: Concrete tubes used in air-raid shelters lined up in Hanoi, North Vietnam's capital have them and workers are digging holes for sinking new ones as bom-

## Bombing

whether attitudes would be the same if the coastal blockade of North Vietnam lasted indefinitely, causing shortages of food and raw materials, or if the bombing became heavier. When the question was trans-

lated, a plump man in a pith helmet a few feet away commented, "You must not understand the Vietnamese." Colonel Lau said:

"We have anticipated the worst and have all the means to face it. Ho Chi Minh said that Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities would be destroyed but that we would not be defeated—he predicted it."