

# Civilian Buildup Near Saigon

SAIGON — (AP) — Both the United States and North Vietnam intensified their crash supply buildups today in advance of a cease-fire.

The first team of American civilian technicians arrived at nearby Bien Hoa to help the South Vietnamese air force.

While the technicians began reassembling scores of warplanes being turned over to South Vietnam, U.S. B52 bombers launched their heaviest strikes of the war on both sides of the demilitarized zone against what senior U.S. military officials called a major North Vietnamese supply drive.

Sources said the civilians would stay at least a month and start out by assembling F5 fighter-bombers flown into Bien Hoa air base from Iran, Taiwan and South Korea on C5A transports. Bien

Hoa is 15 miles northeast of Saigon.

U.S. military and commercial planes delivered 500 tons of military aid equipment to Saigon's Tan Son Nhut air base and informants said more planes would be arriving for at least the next week.

## Typhoon

B-52 bombers flying above thunderstorms spawned by Typhoon Pamela made their deepest raids into North Vietnam since last April, striking 51 miles northwest of the port of Vinh.

The typhoon cut to 20 strikes by tactical fighter-bombers over the North yesterday, the U.S. Command said, the lowest number since the resumption of full-scale bombing last April.

American military officials said the targets above

Vinh — about 55 miles below the 20th Parallel — were "major storage areas and resupply depots for North Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam." A bombing halt remained in effect above the 20th Parallel.

About 80 percent of the B-52 strikes were concentrated along the South Vietnamese northern frontier, between the demilitarized zone and Quang Tri City.

## Hanoi Claim

Sources said more than 75 B-52 bombers took part in the raids, dropping around 2000 tons of bombs on enemy positions.

U.S. officials had no comment on a Radio Hanoi report that an F4 Phantom jet and two other unspecified aircraft were shot down in Quang Tri on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

U.S. officials said the B52

campaign is aimed at destroying supply lines between North Vietnam and the front lines in South Vietnam.

"The North Vietnamese need more logistical capability to stop the South Vietnamese who are pushing north and west from Quang Tri in efforts to expand their territorial control," one official said.

"The North Vietnamese want to gain as much as they can," the official said. "They are doing their damndest to get more guns and tanks in."

Sources said the newly arrived civilian technicians are employed by the Air Force Logistics Command and were pooled from several Logistics Command bases including Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and Kelly Air Force Base in Texas.