

# Hanoi Defense Shift Seen As Discounting New Raids

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By CRAIG R. WHITNEY DEC 21 1972  
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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 1 — American intelligence sources say that North Vietnam has shifted almost all its anti-aircraft defenses to its southern sector, in what they interpret as an indication that Hanoi does not expect to provoke the United States into resumption of the bombing farther north.

The sources also said that, since the halt in mid-October of bombing north of the 20th parallel, the North Vietnamese have repaired the two main rail lines from Hanoi and the port of Haiphong to China and have run shuttle trains between major obstacles such as bridges destroyed by the bombing, which began last April.

"They are working on the bigger projects like rebuilding the bridges," a senior official

said, "and it is clear they do not contemplate doing anything now that would provoke a resumption of the bombing up there."

In the view of the intelligence officials, the planning for a cease-fire is as inexorable and irrevocable in Hanoi as in Washington.

The officials believe that Hanoi's last-minute push of men, equipment and supplies into its southern area is intended primarily to strengthen its bargaining position in the last phase of the peace negotiations.

It was Oct. 22 when President Nixon, without publicity, limited the bombing to targets in the North Vietnamese panhandle, south of the 20th

parallel, south of the 20th

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# Hanoi Shifts Its Air Defenses; Move Seen Discounting Raids

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Parallel. The intelligence officials say the North Vietnamese then began moving large supplies south but found huge traffic jams developing around the panhandle cities of Vinh and Donghoi.

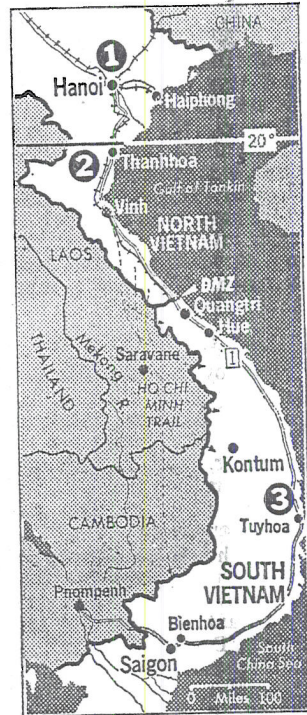
These supply jams were "saturation bombed" by United States fighter-bombers and B-52 heavy bombers that concentrated their raids in the panhandle, the officials went on.

In the last few weeks B-52's have flown as many as 15 missions a day—45 to 50 planes, dropping 24 to 30 tons of bombs apiece — in the area.

**Supplies Reported Cut Off**  
American intelligence officials said that bad weather had prevented aerial reconnaissance of any movement of supplies and men either to or from South Vietnam in the last two weeks or so.

But they assert that no significant amount of new war materiel has reached North Vietnam either by road or by sea. The country's ports were mined last May 8 and no freighters have tried to make their way in, the sources say.

American confidence in the Communists' willingness to seek a cease-fire and a negotiated peace remains undiminished, the intelligence analysts say, and they discount the possibility that Hanoi has taken



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**Railroads from Hanoi (1) to China reportedly have been repaired. Most air defenses are now said to be south of 20th Parallel (2). Crash at Tuyhoa (3) killed a Saigon general.**

advantage of the partial bombing halt to prepare its war machine for fresh attacks.