

Renewed Bombing Assailed by Hanoi

12/20/72

Agence France-Presse

DEC 20 1972

HANOI, Dec. 19—North Vietnam today accused the United States of "premeditated" escalation of the Vietnam war and termed the renewed bombing north of the 20th parallel "insane."

A Foreign Ministry statement, issued a few hours after the heaviest American bombing of Hanoi so far and quoted by the North Vietnamese News Agency, said:

"It is clear that the new war escalation of American imperialism is premeditated and aims at achieving its plot of intensifying its war of aggression and negotiating from a position of force.

"This insane action by the United States will never be able to remedy its desperate situation in South Vietnam. It further unmasks its deceptive statements about its desire for 'peace' and 'serious negotiations.'

"The Nixon administration is trying by the use of bombing and shelling to force the Vietnamese people to submit and accept a solution to the Vietnam problem according to American conditions, that is a pure fantasy."

Concerning last night's bombings, the statement said that "from 7:15 p.m. on Dec. 18 to dawn of Dec. 19, the aircraft of the American imperialists, using in particular B-52 strate-

gic aircraft, carried out hundreds of sorties to attack without respite several regions of the capital, Hanoi, of the city of Haiphong, and of the provinces of Hatya, Habac, Vinhphu, Yenbai, Namha, and Quangninh, committing extremely barbaric crimes.

"The people's armed forces of Hanoi, Haiphong, and the above-mentioned localities, highly vigilant and fighting in excellent fashion riposted fiercely. They shot down several aircraft and killed or captured a number of American pilots."

The statement said that "the intensification and extension of air raids against North Vietnam constitute an extremely grave escalation of the war."

The statement concluded: "The Vietnamese people are attached to peace, but it must be peace in independence and freedom. As long as American imperialism obstinately prolongs and intensifies the war, the Vietnamese people in the whole country, single-heartedly, will remain determined to overcome all difficulties and to endure every sacrifice to carry out the will of the venerated President Ho Chi Minh; to pursue with perseverance and vigor the struggle against the American aggression, for the nation's safety, until total victory."