

2 B-52'S AND F-111 DOWNED IN HEAVY ATTACK ON NORTH; HANOI CALLS RAIDS 'INSANE'

North Vietnam Is Scornful; In Saigon, Gloom and Joy

NYTimes DEC 20 1972
Nixon Goal Held a 'Fantasy'

By Agence France-Presse

HANOI, Dec. 19—North Vietnam accused the United States today of premeditated intensification of the Vietnam war and termed the action insane.

A Foreign Ministry statement, issued a few hours after the heaviest American bombing of Hanoi of the war and quoted by the North Vietnamese press 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 unmask 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

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Vietnamese people to submit and accept a solution to the Vietnam problem according to American conditions. That is a pure fantasy."

Concerning bombing last night, the statement said that from 7:15 P.M. yesterday to dawn today "the aircraft of the American imperialists, using in particular B-52 strategic aircraft, carried out hundreds of sorties to attack without respite several regions of the capital, Hanoi, of the city of Haiphong, and the provinces of Ha Tay, Ha Bac, Vinh Phuc, Yen Bai, Nam Ha and Quang Ninh, committing extremely barbaric crimes.

"The peoples' armed forces of Hanoi, Haiphong and the above-mentioned localities, highly vigilant and fighting in

excellent fashion, riposted fiercely.

Claim 'Several Aircraft'

"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, singleheartedly, 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."

Peking Pledges Support

TOKYO, Dec. 19 (AP) — China's Acting President, Tung Pi-wu, and Premier Chou En-lai have promised the Vietcong that "so long as the United States does not stop its war of aggression, the Chinese people will, as always, resolutely support and assist the just struggle of the Vietnamese people."

The official Chinese press agency, Hsinhua, said the pledge was given in a message Mr. Tung and Mr. Chou sent today to Nguyen Huu Tho, president of the presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front, and Huynh Tan Phat, president of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Thuy Puts Blame on U.S.

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 19—North Vietnam's envoy placed "full responsibility" on the United States today for failure to reach a cease-fire after almost a month of intense negotiations, but he carefully avoided saying there had been a rupture in the talks.

Xuan Thuy, a former Foreign Minister and head of North Vietnam's permanent delegation here, held a news conference to answer charges by Henry A. Kissinger, who on Saturday blamed Hanoi for the lack of agreement.

Mr. Thuy said that when Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, returned to Paris on Nov. 20 to resume negotiations on the draft cease-fire pact drawn up in October, the United States sought 126 changes in the text.

"Except for a very small number that were details or technicalities," he said, the changes affected points of "fundamental importance."

Without listing them, Mr. Thuy said that they brought into question the "reality of two administrations, two armies and three political forces in South Vietnam," that they sought to perpetuate the division of Vietnam and that they denied Vietnamese basic "national rights."

On Saturday, Mr. Kissinger dwelt lightly on the changes the United States had requested, terming them modest. He said that the talks stalled when Hanoi began demanding many changes, some of which he said were frivolous.

Mr. Thuy said repeatedly today that he considered the proposed United States changes crucial.

Maintains Moderate Tone

The formula of "two administrations, two armies and three political forces" is the substitute offered by the Communists last fall for their demand that President Nguyen Van Thieu resign in favor of a coalition government.

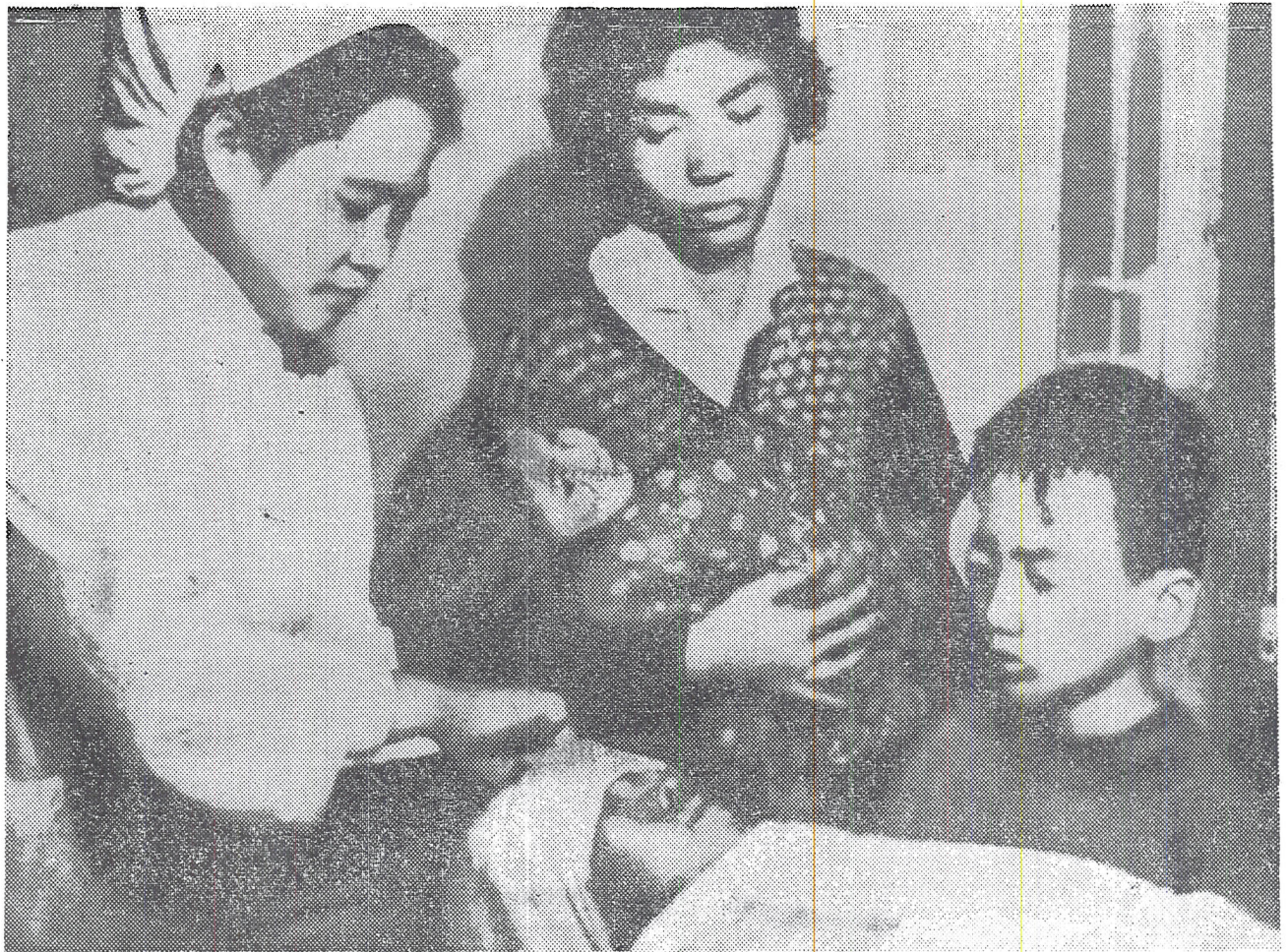
Despite Mr. Thuy's challenge to most of Mr. Kissinger's points and his denunciation of renewed bombing of the Hanoi and Haiphong areas, Mr. Thuy maintained a moderate tone.

Questioners gave him several opportunities to say that the talks had broken down or that there had been a rupture, but he evaded them. On the possibility of further talks, either at the Kissinger-Tho level, the two-sided technical level or four-sided formal level, he would say only that notice would be given when a decision had been made.

"Technical talks," which Mr. Thuy said were about the protocols to be attached to a cease-fire agreement, had been scheduled for tomorrow. The

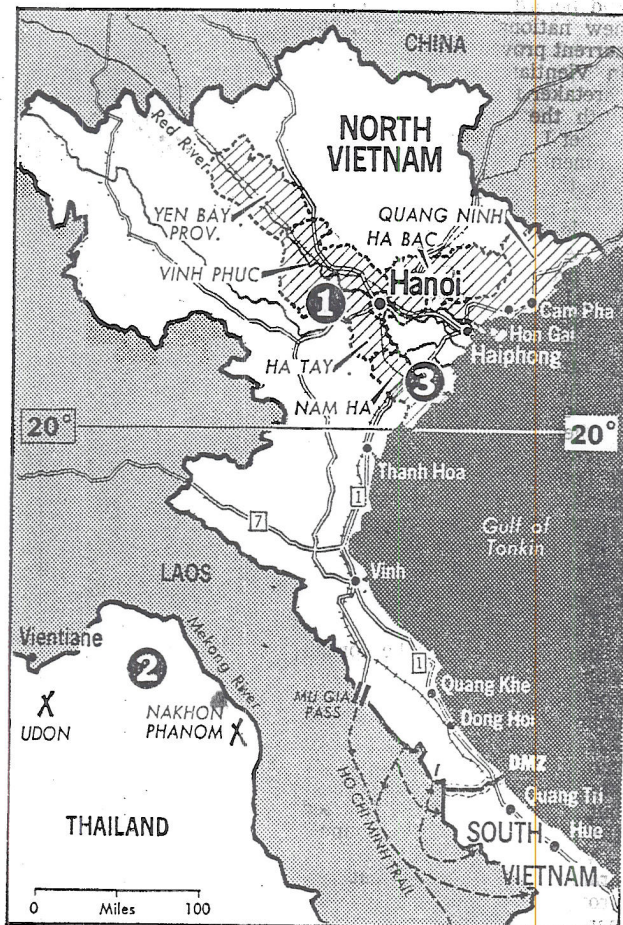
formal four-sided conference is regularly scheduled for Thursday. Mr. Thuy left open the question whether they would take place, and whether or when Mr. Tho might return to Paris.

He reiterated several times the demand that the United States stop the expanded air war and sign the cease-fire draft as it was negotiated in October. This indicated that Hanoi had not foreclosed its previous offer and would be prepared to withdraw the revisions asked recently if the United States withdrew its proposed changes.



Associated Press

Caption, with above photo received from North Vietnam, says the photo shows a mother with her three children wounded in a U.S. bombing attack on Hanoi and its suburbs on Monday.



The New York Times/Dec. 20, 1972

One U.S. B-52 was downed west of Hanoi (1). A second crashed in northeastern Thailand (2) on way back from raid over North Vietnam. An F-111 reportedly crashed near Haiphong (3). Diagonal shading marks provinces that Hanoi said were heavily bombed by U.S. planes.

Attacks on North Vietnam