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# Bombing Offensive Rages Over North

## Red Guns Hit U.S. Warship

Associated Press

Saigon

U.S. B-52 bombers spearheaded a third day of intense aerial assaults today against the Hanoi-Haiphong heartland of North Vietnam.

The U.S. command, meanwhile, reported that at least one Seventh Fleet ship was hit by enemy fire off the North Vietnamese coast, but refused to give any details. A spokesman indicated there were some American casualties but would not elaborate and refused to identify the ship.

Radio Hanoi claimed today that three American warships were "set ablaze" Sunday night off the port city of Thanh Hoa, which is a few miles below the 20th Parallel.

U.S. officials said scores more raids were flown by the giant B-52s before dawn today.

### COST

The new bombing effort has proved the costliest of the war to the U.S. The U.S. command reported yesterday two B-52s were lost to anti-aircraft missiles during the first two days of the bombing resumption above the 20th Parallel. Four other B-52s were damaged by missiles, and one F-111 fighter-bomber was lost.

Eight American crewmen

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were listed as missing by the command and seven were reported rescued.

North Vietnam claimed it shot down two more B-52 bombers and four more fighter-bombers last night and this morning during U.S. bombing raids "that began just before nightfall and continued until dawn."

Many of the air crews were "captured alive," a Radio Hanoi broadcast said.

### CASUALTIES

(The North Vietnamese News Agency said at least 70 persons were killed in the first day's raids around Hanoi and that the toll could reach 200 dead. There has been no announcement of casualties or damage from yesterday's raids.)

Officials said 100 B-52s — the entire force available for action in Southeast Asia — have been used in the raids.

Officials reported intense fire in the Hanoi-Haiphong region. They add up to 100 missiles were fired in the first day of the resumed bombing when American bombers aimed their heaviest raids of the war against the enemy heartland.

Air Force and Navy planes swarmed over North Vietnam in the unprecedented raids ordered by President Nixon after the latest breakdown in peace talks.

The U.S. command, imposing one of the most stringent news blackouts of the war on the renewed air operations over North Vietnam, would not comment on the second day of raids and said it had no additional plane losses to report at this time.

Its phrasing left open the possibility that still more aircraft had been lost but were

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as yet unreported. The command customarily withholds such information while search and rescue efforts are under way.

Sources said the U.S. command news blackout on the air raids in the North Vietnamese heartland was ordered by Mr. Nixon.

A command spokesman was reluctant to discuss any aspect of B-52 operations including whether any of the bombers had been used elsewhere in Indochina during the last 24 hours or whether all of those available had been sent over North Vietnam.

### TOTAL

There are about 200 B-52s assigned to operate in Indochina, three quarters of them based on the island of Guam in the Pacific and the remainder at Utapao, Thailand. They require a great deal of maintenance and Air Force officers said that only a few more than 100 are available for combat at any one time.

Radio Hanoi, which made the first public disclosure of the raids, said in a broadcast monitored here that all through Monday night and early yesterday morning American planes made repeated raids on "many areas of Hanoi, the capital city, Haiphong City" and in six other provinces around the two major cities.

All except the lower panhandle of North Vietnam below the 20th Parallel had been declared off limits since October 20 in what the Nixon administration called a sign of good will when a peace settlement seemed near.