

# Pope's SF Examiner 'Painful Emotion'

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VATICAN CITY — (UPI) — Pope Paul VI expressed "painful emotion" today over the new flare-up of fighting in Vietnam and urged Roman Catholics to pray for a peaceful settlement.

Without expressly mentioning the resumption of U.S. bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong area, the Pope said he was saddened by "the sudden resumption of hard and heavy war operations" in Vietnam.

The Pope's impromptu remarks—his third reference to Vietnam in 10 days — came at the end of a general audience speech dealing with the significance of Christmas.

"Our expectation of Christmas does not conflict today with our painful emotion over the sudden resumption of hard and heavy war operations in Vietnam, which has become a subject of daily sorrow, right at the time when everyone in the world thought an initial peaceful settlement of the conflict was imminent," the pontiff told thousands of Romans and pilgrims in St. Peter's Basilica.

"We had hoped for it (a settlement) to coincide with the Christmas holidays."

He asked Catholics to join him in "most ardent prayer to the God of peace and joy that that painful situation may soon have a happy ending, not in new military operations but in negotiations conducted with mutual generosity and good faith."