

# PENTAGON SAYS BOMBINGS WRECK MILITARY TARGETS; IT DENIES 'TERROR' RAIDS

## HANOI IS BLAMED

### Raids Laid to a Lack of Seriousness at the Paris Talks

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20—The Defense Department said today that the intensive American bombing of North Vietnam in the last two days had caused "very significant damage" to a broad range of military targets.

The department insisted that civilian targets were not being struck, as asserted by Hanoi, and dismissed suggestions that the United States was engaged in "terror bombing."

#### 2 More Planes Lost

Other Administration officials, meanwhile, insisted that the United States had resumed heavy bombing because of what they described as North Vietnam's lack of seriousness at the Paris negotiations, and they said that Hanoi was entirely to blame for the breakdown of the talks. [Details on Page 16.]

[In Paris, the North Vietnamese announced the postponement of scheduled lower-level discussions on the technical details of a Vietnam cease-fire. Page 15.]

As the heavy bombing, which began Monday, went into its third day, the Defense Department and the United States military command in Saigon announced the loss of two more American planes, including a third B-52 bomber.

The Hanoi radio, however, asserted in a broadcast today that two other B-52's and four more fighter-bombers had also gone down. [A broadcast early Thursday said that as the raids continued through the night the North Vietnamese shot down 10

more American planes, among them four B-52's and an F-111 swing-wing fighter-bomber, Reuters reported.]

#### Destroyer Is Hit

In their reports during the third day of bombing, the Defense Department and the United States command in Saigon announced that enemy shore batteries in the Thanh Hoa area had hit the guided missile destroyer Goldsborough, killing two men and wounding three. The destroyer, however, was

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## Military Targets

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aid to have continued its operations despite a hole blasted into its upper decks by a hell.

For the first time since the intensive bombing of North Vietnam above the 20th Parallel was resumed, the Defense Department gave the general categories of the targets, which, it said, "support the continued North Vietnamese infiltration into and aggression against South Vietnam." In Saigon, however, the United States command continued to refuse to discuss targets or other main aspects of the bombardment.

At the Pentagon's daily press briefing, the Defense Department spokesman, Jerry Friedheim, said that "these military targets include such categories as rail yards, ship yards, command and control facilities, warehouse and transshipment areas, communications facilities, vehicle-repair facilities, power plants, railway bridges, railroad rolling stock, truck parks, MIGases, air-defense radars and gun and missile sites."

The White House said on Monday, in announcing the resumption of full-scale bombing in the wake of the deadlock in the private peace talks with North Vietnam, that the raids would "continue until such time as a settlement is arrived at."

Today, Mr. Friedheim indicated there would be no bombing lull during the Christmas season, as there frequently was

before 1968. "We are early in this engagement," he said.

Mr. Friedheim was asked if it was not inevitable that some civilian centers would be struck because of the B-52 bombing pattern, which, in the case of normal flight of three bombers, is said to be more than half mile wide and more than a mile and a half long.

#### Reply Is Amended

"No," he replied. "We don't strike civilian targets." He then amended his comment to say, "We do not target civilian targets."

He emphasized that past instances in which civilian targets had been hit had been "very limited."

The current bombing cam-

paign marks the first time that the B-52 bombers have been used over Hanoi, the most heavily defended area in North Vietnam.

In the past, the B-52's have generally been used over less heavily defended areas of North Vietnam, such as the southern panhandle, and usually attacked coastal targets. This permitted them to make a quick bombing run and retreat before the North Vietnamese defenses were raised.

The one exception was last April, shortly after the North Vietnamese offensive began in South Vietnam, when about 20 B-52's were sent to strike at petroleum-storage sites on the outskirts of Haiphong.

Defense officials said the three B-52's were lost because they were now operating over a heavily defended area and not because there was any unexpected advance in North Vietnamese air-defense capabilities.

#### Heavy Firing Reported

Mr. Friedheim reported that during the first two days of the bombing, about 100 SAM-2 missiles were fired each day at the attacking planes, a relatively heavy rate of firing.

Adopting a tactic first used last spring, the North Vietnamese are firing the missiles in salvos or barrages, a costly method of firing that provides a sort of shotgun defense shield against any plane near the detonating warheads.

Mr. Friedheim reported that all three B-52's lost thus far had apparently been hit by SAM-2's, anti-aircraft missiles

developed by the Russians as a defense against United States strategic bombers.

One of the three bombers crash-landed in Thailand, with its crew rescued. The two others crashed in the Hanoi area, with both of the six-men crews listed as missing.

In addition to the loss of the third B-52, the United States command in Saigon said a Navy A-7 fighter-bomber had been shot down Tuesday in the Haiphong area, with the pilot listed as missing.

The only previous report of a B-52 bomber lost to enemy action in the Vietnam war came Nov. 23, when a bomber

was crippled in a bombing run over North Vietnam and crash-landed in Thailand.

The current bombing appeared to be among the most intensive of the war, with some reports from Saigon suggesting that 20,000 tons—the equivalent of the atomic bomb used on Hiroshima—had been dropped in the first two days. Mr. Friedheim would characterize the level as "a very major effort" while discounting reports that as many as 500 planes were being sent northward in a single day.

The official North Vietnamese press agency, in a broadcast monitored in Saigon, said that the raids had made Hanoi into "a huge battle site." The broadcast also said that "United States aircraft indiscriminately attacked over 30 places in downtown and suburban areas" in the Haiphong area.

Neither the State nor Defense Departments would comment immediately on a report by the Polish Government that the 5,720-ton Polish freighter, the Jozef Conrad, which had been blockaded by American mines in the port of Haiphong, had been hit and sunk by American bombs, with three Polish seamen killed. The official Polish press agency said that Warsaw had protested to the United States against the "act of air piracy."