

Tass Reports From Hanoi: 'Heavy Civilian Casualties'

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MOSCOW, Dec. 20—Tass, the Soviet press agency, reported from Hanoi today that the latest American air raids there had caused "heavy civilian casualties" and destroyed "thousands of homes."

In one dispatch, Tass also said that a Polish vessel, the Jozef Conrad, had suffered a direct hit in the port of Haiphong. The ship was set afire and, seriously damaged, was left listing heavily, Tass said.

[In Warsaw, the Polish press agency said that the freighter had been sunk and three seamen killed. It added that Poland had officially protested to the United States.]

Two dispatches from Aleksandr Mineyev, a Tass correspondent, asserted that the American raids last night and tonight had destroyed or severely damaged blocks of workers' housing, a hospital building, a movie theater, a student village at the Hanoi Technical Institute, among other places in Hanoi. Some targets, it said, were not far from the center of the city.

The Tass report gave no precise estimates of casualties, although one dispatch specifically said "several students" had been found dead under the wreckage at the Polytechnical

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Institute. [The Hanoi radio reported 215 killed and 326 wounded in the two days of raids on the capital.]

Tass charged that in "brutal bombings of cities" in North Vietnam, the United States had used more than 100 B-52 strategic bombers and 500 fighter-bombers in the last 24 hours. Several of the American air strikes were aimed "directly at Hanoi's suburbs," Tass said, adding that around Haiphong bombs kept falling "on densely populated blocks, main streets and suburbs."

A second dispatch described the scene in various areas around Hanoi. In the Hai Baching region, less than two miles from the city center, Tass said, bombs fell on a movie theater, almost destroyed two blocks of workers' housing as well as other homes, leaving behind "heaps of brick and fragments of beams."

Among objectives Tass said were hit in other parts of the Hanoi region were the hospital at Bat Mai, the assembly hall and auditorium of the Institute of Economics and Planning and the student village of polytechnical institute.

Tass reported that North Vietnamese antiaircraft fire had knocked down three B-52 strategic bombers yesterday and today.

The two Tass dispatches, the first of which arrived in time to be printed this afternoon in Izvestia, the government newspaper, were more detailed than Soviet reporting of the American air war has been for some time, obviously reflecting Moscow's annoyance at President Nixon for renewing the air attacks around Hanoi.

Polish Tell of Attack

WARSAW, Dec. 20 (Reuters) — A Polish freighter had been sunk and three Polish seamen killed in an American bombing attack on the North Vietnamese port of Haiphong today, the Polish press agency reported.

Poland has officially protested to the United States, the agency said.

Five other seamen aboard the freighter, the 5,720-ton Jozef Conrad, were injured, the agency said in a statement announcing the protest.

The agency said the responsibility for the "barbarous attack" lay completely with the United States. The Conrad burned and sank, it said.

"This act by the American Air Force, which caused the death of three Polish seamen, qualifies as an act of an air piracy which deserves absolute condemnation," the statement declared.

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 20 (AP) — The Hanoi radio reported today that 215 persons were killed and 325 were wounded in the North Vietnamese capital in raids on Monday and yesterday. In Haiphong, it added, 45 persons were killed and 131 wounded on Monday.

"Thousands of homes were demolished and many economic, cultural and social establishments were razed or badly damaged," the broadcasts said. But all broadcasts declared that the attacks would not force North Vietnam to accept President Nixon's demands for a peace settlement.