

Basically same story as carried by NYTimes of this date, but paragraphs marked in red not included in this edition of the Times.

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U.S. Reports

Significant

Raid Damage

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Washington

The Defense Department said yesterday that the intensive American bombing of the past two days has caused "very significant damage" to a broad range of "military targets" in North Vietnam.

It insisted that civilian targets are not being struck, as claimed by North Vietnam, and dismissed suggestions that the United States is engaged in "terror bombing."

The Pentagon also indicated there will be no halt in the bombing during the Christmas Holidays.

For the first time since the intensive bombing of all North Vietnam was resumed on Monday, following the breakdown of the Paris peace negotiations, the Defense Department gave the general categories of targets being hit in North Vietnam.

From the Defense Department description, the emphasis was entirely upon "military targets which support the continued North Vietnamese infiltration into and aggression against South Vietnam."

At the Pentagon's daily news briefing, Defense Department spokesman Jerry

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W. Friedheim said that "these military targets include such categories as: railyards, shipyards, command and control facilities, warehouse and transshipment areas, communications facilities, vehicle repair facilities, power plants, railway bridges, railroad rolling stock, truck parks, MIG bases, air defense radars and air defense gun and missile sites."

From both the intensity of the bombing as well as the administration's tight secrecy about the details, it is becoming increasingly apparent that in addition to any military objective of disrupting North Vietnamese supply lines, the bombing also has a political and psychological objective of forcing Hanoi into a more conciliatory position in the Paris peace negotiations.

RAIDS

The White House said Monday that the raids would "continue until such time as a settlement is arrived at."

Yesterday, Friedheim clearly indicated there would be no bombing lull during the Christmas season, as frequently occurred in the pre-1968 bombing period. "We are early in this engagement," Friedheim said in suggesting the bombing would continue for the indefinite future.

One clue to the administration's underlying intentions came in the decision, which Pentagon officials suggested was reached at the White House level, to include the giant B-52 strategic bombers in the sustained bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong area, even at the risk that some would be shot down.

In contrast to the Navy and Air Force fighter-bombers which strike at individual targets, the B-52s lay down an awesome pattern of saturation bombing of a target area. The normal flight of three B-52s, for example, will drop about 70 tons of bombs over an area .62 miles wide and 1.87 miles long.

When asked whether it was not "inevitable," in view of the characteristics of B-52 bombing patterns, that some civilian centers would be struck, Friedheim replied: "No, we don't strike civilian targets." He then amended his comment to state "we target only military targets" and emphasized that past instances of hitting civilian targets has been "very limited."

USE

The current bombing campaign marks the first time that the B-52s have been used over Hanoi, the most heavily defended area in North Vietnam. The effect, perhaps intended, is to bring the thunderous attack of the bombers within the sight and sound of the leaders of North Vietnam.

In the past the B-52s generally have been used over less heavily defended areas of North Vietnam, such as the southern panhandle, and usually attacked coastal targets, thus permitting 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, when about 20 B-52s struck petroleum storage sites on the outskirts of Haiphong.

Defense officials attributed the loss of the three B-52s this week to the fact that they were now operating over a heavily defended area rather than to any unexpected advances in North Vietnamese air defense capabilities.

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

Following a tactic first developed last spring, the North Vietnamese also are firing the missiles in salvos. A costly method of firing that carries the advantage of providing a sort of

shot-gun defense shield.

Friedheim reported that all three B-52s lost thus far were apparently hit by missiles specifically developed by the Russians as a defense against the U.S. strategic bomber. One of the three bombers crashlanded in Thailand, with its crew rescued. The other two crashed in the Hanoi area, with both of the six-man crews missing.