

NY Times DEC 22 1972  
**2 MORE B-52'S LOST  
 IN THE HANOI AREA  
 AS BIG RAIDS GO ON**

**North Says That a Prisoner  
 Camp Was Damaged and  
 Some P.O.W.'s Hurt**

**SHIP HIT, PEKING STATES**

**U.S. Silent on Details of the  
 Attacks but Intricate Plan  
 Is Said to Be Followed**

**By JOSEPH B. TREASTER**

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Friday, Dec. 22 — A United States military spokesman said last night that two more B-52 heavy bombers had been shot down near Hanoi during the day, raising to six the number lost since Monday.

Both six-man crews were listed as missing, increasing to at least 27 the number of American airmen either captured or killed since the intensive bombing of North Vietnam began on Monday.

Besides the six B-52's, the United States has acknowledged the loss of two fighter-bombers. The Hanoi radio, however, said the North Vietnamese had downed a total of 12 B-52's and at least 14 fighter-bombers.

A North Vietnamese broadcast said that American air raids on Wednesday and yesterday had damaged the prison camp nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton" and that an unspecified number of American airmen held there were injured yesterday. [In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said, as quoted by The Associated Press, that if these statements were correct, then Hanoi was admitting that it was violating the Geneva Convention by keeping prisoners of war "in areas particularly exposed to the dangers of war."]

**Cuban Embassy Reported Hit**

A correspondent for Agence France-Presse reported from Hanoi last night that the Cuban Embassy there had been hit by bombs and that Gia Lam airport northeast of the city had

been heavily damaged. Tass, the Soviet press agency, reported that the Egyptian Embassy in Hanoi had been damaged and that the city power plant and railway terminal had been destroyed.

The Hanoi radio said that a Soviet ship in Haiphong harbor was damaged yesterday by American bombs.

[The Peking radio said, as quoted by Reuters, that a Chinese freighter anchored at Haiphong had been bombed on Tuesday and that the Chinese Government had protested to the United States.]

Meanwhile, the United States command here maintained its silence on most of the details of the continuing heavy raids. The spokesmen here declined to comment on the scale of damage inflicted so far. They have also refused to discuss why so few details are being divulged by the United States.

Yesterday, however, some well-informed officers said privately that the tight security was indeed a military necessity.

These officers said that the scope and nature of the present

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bombing differed from anything the United States had ever mounted against North Vietnam. They suggested that it would be carried out within a predetermined period of time and that it could be regarded as a single devastating package.

Within the package, they said, there were numerous targets, all with assigned priorities, and numerous attack patterns in which several types of aircraft armed with a variety of weapons were being coordinated.

The officers said that it was felt that knowledge of any element of the system or "game plan" being employed might be useful to the North Vietnamese defenders, particularly in the early stages.

Thus, since the beginning of the strikes or, as many officers say, the "operation" the command has been making public scarcely more than the number and type of aircraft lost after all efforts to rescue the crewmen have been abandoned.

**Few MIG's Reported Seen**

The initial strikes, the officers said, sought to cripple North Vietnam's communication system. If these efforts were successful, damage reports announced in Saigon and published around the world could be directly useful to the North Vietnamese.

Noting that the damage reports on the Hanoi radio were

generally sketchy, some officers have said that the North Vietnamese may very well be holding back information that might attract world sympathy but also might serve as a form of

reconnaissance for their assaults.

Discussing the air defenses that the North Vietnamese have employed against the current strikes, informed officers say that about 100 surface-to-air missiles were fired on each of the first two days of the raids, but that there have been few sightings of Communist MIG's in the air and, so far, none have been shot down.

It is believed that all of the B-52's that have crashed have been hit by jagged fragments

from exploding surface-to-air missiles. Several other B-52's are also believed to have been damaged by the missiles.

United States Air Force officers say the elaborate electronic device carried in the B-52's continued to be effective deterrents to the radar-guided missiles.

But the North Vietnamese have reportedly begun firing salvos of missiles in free flight without radar guidance at formations of the big planes, hoping for a calculated but lucky

hit. The odds in favor of the North Vietnamese go up, it is noted, as the number of planes in the sky increases.

Informed military officers have said that about 100 B-52's and several hundred—perhaps as many as 500—fighter-bombers have been participating in the operation daily since the current series of heavy raids began.

**Strikes in South Reported**

Apparently because of the magnitude of the attacks on North Vietnam, the number of fighter-bomber strikes in South Vietnam yesterday reportedly dropped to 95. This was said to be the lowest since the beginning of the North Vietnamese offensive in South Vietnam last March 30.

Before the full-scale bombing resumed Monday, after having been kept below the 20th Parallel for nearly two months, the command had routinely made public the approximate number of fighter-bombers and B-52's striking the North, their targets and some of the damage.

At least for the time being that practice has been discontinued.

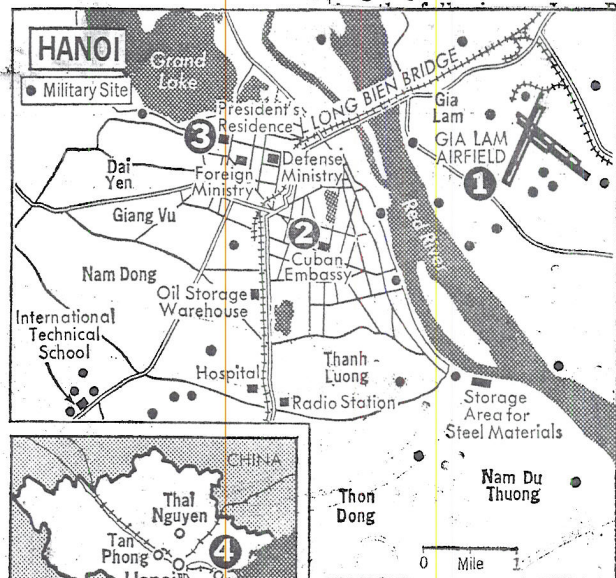
The Hanoi radio said last night that 10 of the American airmen downed in the latest raids were presented at a news conference in the North Vietnamese capital earlier in the day. On Tuesday, the North Vietnamese presented six men said to be captured B-52 crew members.

**'Carpet-Bombing' Charged**

One Hanoi radio report said that American planes had "carpet-bombed" the villages of Yen My and Tan Phong north of Hanoi. The radio said that "many civilians were killed or wounded," but it offered no figures.

In another report the North Vietnamese radio said that bombs had cut a swath of more than a mile across the community of Quang Vinh within the city limits of Thai Nguyen north of Hanoi, site of the country's largest steel mill.

In its report on the "Hanoi Hilton," the Hanoi radio said that damage to the prison camp had been shown to a group of Americans includ-



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**Reports from Hanoi said that its airport (1) was wrecked, that the Cuban Embassy (2) was struck, that bomb fell near the President's residence (3) and that Soviet ship at Haiphong (4) was hit.**



ing the rock singer, Joan Baez. It said that some American prisoners exhibited shrapnel they had gathered.

#### Tass Reports on Raids

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Friday, Dec. 22—Official North Vietnamese figures put the casualty toll from American air raids around Hanoi at 215 dead and 326

wounded through noon Tuesday, according to Tass, the Soviet press agency.

A dispatch from the Tass correspondent in Hanoi said that in raids last night and early today, Hanoi's air and rail terminals and city power plant had been destroyed and civilian planes at the airport damaged.

The Tass report said that an area near the North Vietnamese

presidential palace was among those hit.

In a separate dispatch from its own Hanoi correspondent, Pravda this morning reported that the American raids around Hanoi were the "most protracted" in the history of the war, often starting about 7:40 P.M.

and then continuing, with interruptions, until 5 or 6 A.M. the next morning. On one occasion, Pravda said, the Hanoi air alert was on for four hours.

#### Normal Workday Reported

Despite the raids and sleepless night, the Tass dispatch said, "city transport is working

[and] the people of Hanoi began their working day today at the usual time."

It added that medical-aid teams were able to evacuate the wounded and to give assistance to the homeless.