

NYTimes DEC 23 1972
**LARGEST HOSPITAL
 IN HANOI REPORTED
 DAMAGED IN RAID**

**Swedish Official Says North
 Vietnam Asserted People
 There Had Been Killed**

B-52 ATTACKS CONTINUE

**U. S. Maintains Its Silence
 on Details—Increased
 Plane Losses Feared**

Special to The New York Times
STOCKHOLM, Dec. 22—Hanoi's largest hospital, one mile west of the city center, was damaged by American planes early today, according to the Swedish Foreign Ministry.

It said Sweden's chargé d'affaires in Hanoi, Eskil Lundberg, had reported by radiophone that the 1,000-bed Bach Mai Hospital had been hit between 4 and 6 A.M. However, he had not seen the hospital himself. He said he had been called to the Foreign Ministry in Hanoi and told that the hospital had been damaged and that some people had been killed.

Mr. Lundberg, who spoke with Sweden's Ambassador to North Vietnam, Jean Christophe Oeberg, now in Stockholm for the holidays, reported that a press party had been taken to the scene.

City Center Reported Hit

Mr. Oeberg said Mr. Lundberg had reported that since the beginning of the B-52 raids on North Vietnam on Monday, a third of Hanoi's hospital facilities had been destroyed. In addition, according to Mr. Oeberg, the chargé d'affaires had said that American bombs had fallen in densely populated areas, heavily damaging parts of central Hanoi that had not been hit before.

The Ambassador said that a Swedish medical aid team had visited Bach Mai hospital two weeks ago to determine what equipment Sweden could supply. He said that the hospital, one of the few in Hanoi with modern equipment, was damaged in an American air raid

last June. At that time one building was destroyed, he added.

Heavy Raids Continue

By **JOSEPH B. TREASTER**

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Saturday, Dec. 23—The United States continued its heavy bombing of North Vietnam yesterday for the fifth day.

Since the raids started last Monday, the United States command has listed eight B-52's and four fighter-bombers as having crashed and 43 airmen as missing in action.

The Hanoi radio has said that the North Vietnamese have shot down 34 American aircraft during the same period, 15 of them B-52's, which are valued at about \$8-million each, and the rest fighter-bombers.

"This is the worst period of losses we've ever had," a staff officer said last night, "and I'm afraid it's going to get worse."

In the regular military news briefing last night, Maj. Jere K. Forbus, a spokesman for the

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command, refused—as he and the other spokesmen have since Monday—to disclose any of the targets that have been hit or how much damage has been inflicted on them. Previously this information had been routinely made public.

The only reports on the damage have come from the Hanoi radio and the handful of foreign correspondents based in the North Vietnamese capital, including representatives of Tass, the Soviet press agency, and Agence France-Presse, the French news agency.

In a further restriction on information about the raids, Major Forbus said that the command would no longer disclose the number of men aboard B-52's when they crashed.

He said that B-52's can carry either six or seven men and that giving the number aboard a particular aircraft might be useful to enemy search parties.

Six Usually Aboard

One of the eight B-52's to crash since Monday was carrying seven men, but that was acknowledged as a rare instance. In the vast majority of cases—especially on such high-risk missions as those being flown in the vicinity of Hanoi and Haiphong—six men are aboard: a pilot, co-pilot, radar navigator or bombardier, navigator, electronic countermeasures officer, whose job is to attempt to block the radar systems guiding surface-to-air missiles, and a tailgunner.

A newsman asked Major Forbus if in fact political considerations were behind the new re-

striction on information at a time when the American public has been showing increasing concern for the prisoners of war in North Vietnam. The spokesman refused to respond.

In announcing yesterday morning that four B-52's were lost Thursday along with two twin-seat Navy A-6 Intruder fighter-bombers, the command said all the crews were missing but did not report how many men were involved.

Last night another spokesman said that the number of men aboard fighter-bombers that crashed would continue to be made public and that the new restriction on information would apply only to B-52's. He said the reason was that the crew size never varied in planes with only one or two seats. In fact, the Phantom fighter-bomber, a two-seater that is widely used in Southeast Asia, has often been flown in combat with only one crewman aboard.

Some of the downed airmen have been captured and paraded before news conferences in Hanoi but many remain unaccounted for.

Some Are Captured

The number listed as missing so far is equivalent to about 10 per cent of the number of American prisoners of war held by the North Vietnamese before the latest attacks began. The total then, according to Pentagon figures was 431.

In a report broadcast over the Hanoi radio, the official North Vietnamese press agency said that on both Tuesday and Wednesday United States bombers had damaged a camp where American P.O.W.'s were being held, known as the "Hanoi Hilton."

Last night Major Forbus said, "We have not targeted any areas near where we think any prisoners are being held." He added that he knew of no instances where a P.O.W. camp had been "inadvertently" damaged by American bombs.

The various news agencies in

Hanoi—some of which the command here regards as propaganda tools—have reported that B-52's have "carpet-bombed" large sections of villages and caused numerous civilian casualties. The spokesmen here and in Washington have insisted that the American planes are aiming exclusively at military targets.

The agencies in Hanoi have also reported damage to the Cuban and Egyptian Embassies, to a Polish merchant ship and a Chinese vessel and to Gia Lam Airport northeast of Hanoi, which, like Tan Son Nhut Airport in Saigon, has been used by both civilian and military aircraft.

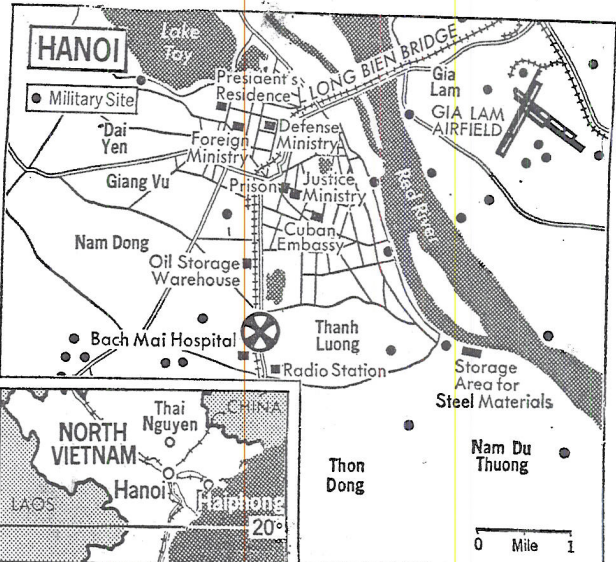
In New Delhi, the Foreign Ministry announced that the chancery building and staff headquarters at the Indian Embassy in Hanoi had been damaged by bombing. The Associated Press reported. In London, the British Foreign Office said the 5,970-ton British merchantman Kim Seng was damaged Wednesday in Haiphong harbor.

MIG Activity Light

According to informed military officers, more than 100 B-52's and several hundred fighter-bombers, have been attacking North Vietnam daily. A number of the fighter-bombers have been standing by to defend against attacks from Communist MIG jets but so far, the officers say, they have seen little action.

Major Forbus said that the North Vietnamese had been firing about 100 surface-to-air missiles a day and that conventional antiaircraft fire has been wildly erratic, inexplicably ranging from heavy to light. The missiles are believed to have downed the eight B-52's and damaged several others.

While many military men here believe the bombing will be of limited duration, there has been no official indication of when it will stop. However, Christmas has frequently been mentioned as a likely terminal date.



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