

# U.S. to Continue Bombing; Says Next Move Is Hanoi's

NYTimes

DEC 23 1972

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—The White House said today that the United States would continue its heavy bombing of North Vietnam and that the next step to end the Vietnam war was "totally" up to the North Vietnamese.

At Key Biscayne, Fla., where President Nixon has gone to spend the Christmas holiday, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said that Mr. Nixon was "determined" to continue his current policy until North Vietnam decided to resume negotiations "in a spirit of goodwill and in a constructive attitude."

"If they do that, we can have a very rapid settlement of the situation," Mr. Ziegler said.

State Department officials said privately that numerous protests and criticisms of the American bombing had been received from foreign officials and governments. But the department has acknowledged only a few of them. It said today that apologies had been made to the Polish Government for damage to a Polish ship in Haiphong harbor, and to the Egyptian Government for damage to its embassy in Hanoi.

The Australian Government, which had combat troops in Vietnam until last year, was reported to have sent a message to President Nixon yesterday saying that Australia was opposed to the resumption of bombing of the North.

The White House refused to comment on a criticism made by Pope Paul VI, who men-

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tioned the "painful delay" in ending the war in his annual message on the State of the Church and World.

Mr. Ziegler and Administration spokesmen in Washington were asked dozens of questions today about the daily bombing raids of B-52's over the Hanoi and Haiphong areas, which were ordered by Mr. Nixon last weekend after Henry A. Kissinger charged Hanoi with backtracking on a negotiated settlement in Paris.

### Christmas Pause Undecided

None of the spokesmen would say if the bombing pattern over North Vietnam would be altered. But Mr. Ziegler, asked if

there might be at least a Christmas Day pause, said that he had no comment on such a halt "at this time."

The Administration has contended that Hanoi, for reasons unknown, decided to stall at the Paris negotiations, raising one objection after another to forestall an accord even though the two sides were close to agreeing on a final text. Hanoi insists that the delay was caused by unacceptable new American demands to change the October draft agreement.

Today, Mr. Nixon conferred with Mr. Kissinger, who is his adviser on national security, and Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., Mr. Kissinger's deputy, who had flown directly to Florida from Southeast Asia, where he had discussions with the leaders of South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

Mr. Ziegler confirmed that General Haig had carried a message from Mr. Nixon to President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam and brought a return letter to Mr. Nixon from Saigon.

The details were not made known, but apparently Mr. Nixon stressed to Mr. Thieu what Mr. Kissinger said publicly last Saturday: that once Hanoi agreed to a solution the United States felt was "just and fair," Saigon would be expected to sign it also.

Although the current American policy is aimed primarily at getting Hanoi to agree to the American terms, Mr. Ziegler repeated the Administration's view that Saigon should not stand in the way of a settlement either.

"Neither side, North Vietnam nor South Vietnam, and this is the point we of course have made throughout our discussions—neither side benefits by prolonging the negotiation or prolonging the war itself," Mr. Ziegler said.

There were these other Vietnam developments:

¶ Jerry W. Friedheim, a Defense Department spokesman, said that all information received by the Pentagon said

Hanoi was making an "incorrect" allegation when it charged yesterday that the B-52's had damaged a prison camp holding captured American pilots. He said Hanoi had made similar "incorrect" charges in the past.

¶ Congressional Quarterly, a Washington publication, reported that a poll taken this week of 73 Senators showed that 45 opposed the latest bombing, 19 in favor, and 9 with no opinion. The 27 other members could not be reached. Moreover, 45 of the 73 Senators said they would support legislation ending the war, 25 were opposed, and 3 undecided.

¶ Various groups condemned the bombing, including the Americans for Democratic Action, which called on Congress to take action when it convenes on Jan. 3. But the United States Catholic Conference took a more even-handed position, urging "a return in good faith to the negotiating table" without holding either side to blame.

Administration officials said they believed that Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, was not seeking to set back the course of Soviet-American relations yesterday when he linked future ties to an end to the Vietnam

war. The officials said they expected Moscow to use its influence to get the negotiations moving again.

The officials had no comment on a speech made in Hanoi yesterday by Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap, North Vietnam's chief military leader. General Giap said that although Hanoi and Haiphong might be destroyed in the current raids, the North Vietnamese people will not be forced to yield.

### India Protests Damage

NEW DELHI, Dec. 22 (Reuters) — Indian diplomatic quarters in Hanoi were damaged by American bombing yesterday and India has delivered a strong protest to the United States, parliament was told today.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surendra Pal Singh said all Indians were reported safe.

He also said no amount of military pressure would deter or deflect "the heroic people of Vietnam."

"Even in this tragic hour," he said, "we earnestly hope that wiser counsels will prevail and that instead of resorting to brute force, negotiations will be immediately resorted to, to find a settlement which meets with the wishes of the brave people of Vietnam."