

DEC 23 1972

Raids Go On; Hanoi Says Hospital Hit

From News Dispatches

The heaviest U.S. air bombardment of the Vietnam war continued through its fifth day Friday and Radio Hanoi reported that Bach Mai Hospital—"the biggest medical center of North Vietnam"—was destroyed by bombs.

The Pentagon said it had no information on reports that the hospital, just over one mile from the center of Hanoi, had been hit by B-52s between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. Friday.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said its embassy in Hanoi reported that "many physicians and nurses were killed" in the attack. Radio Hanoi reported that many patients were also killed.

The chancellor at the Swedish Embassy in Hanoi, Eskil Lundberg, was also quoted as saying that U.S. warplanes had bombed the central and most heavily populated areas of the North Vietnamese capital in the latest raids.

Hanoi Radio claimed that three more B-52s and an F-111 fighter-bomber were shot down in Friday's raids. The U.S. command in Saigon did not have any immediate report on losses Friday.

Hanoi now claims to have shot down 15 B-52s during this week's bombing raids. The U.S. command has reported losing only eight.

China, meanwhile, protested that U.S. planes attacking the North Vietnamese port of Haiphong Wednesday damaged the Chinese merchant ship Red Flag No. 149, gravely endangering Chinese crewmen.

An "urgent statement" issued by the official New China News Agency demanded that the United States immediately stop attacking Chinese merchant ships and guarantee that similar incidents would not recur.

India Friday became the third nation to report damage to its embassy in Hanoi this week by U.S. bombs.

Deputy Foreign Minister Pal Singh told Parliament that Indian chancellery buildings and staff quarters had been

damaged Thursday and said that the Indian government had delivered "its strongest protest" to the United States. No injuries were reported.

"We cannot but raise our voice in protest at such indiscriminate bombings, particularly in civilian areas and even diplomatic quarters," Singh said.

See INDOCHINA, A6, Col. 1

INDOCHINA, From A1

Cuba and Egypt reported earlier that their embassies had also been hit by U.S. planes.

The top American diplomat in Cairo, Joseph Greene, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday to receive Egypt's protest. A U.S. official said Greene expressed regret for any "inadvertant damage" caused to the Egyptian embassy.

The North Vietnamese News Agency, meanwhile, reported yesterday that Defense Minister Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap Thursday night reaffirmed North Vietnam's determination to fight on in the face of "attacks of an unprecedented scale and ferocity against numerous populated areas. . .

"All the insane calculations of the American aggressors in the pursuit of their criminal war against Vietnam by whatever barbarous methods will lead them certainly to complete defeat," Giap said.

The "more the American imperialists appear brutal and traitorous, the stronger will be the determination of the Vietnamese people," he said.

The United States and North Vietnam, meanwhile, differed sharply on who was responsible for the reported bomb damage Thursday to the

"Hanoi Hilton," the main U.S. POW camp in the North Vietnamese capital. Hanoi said several of the POWs were wounded.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said the United States is holding Hanoi "responsible and accountable" for the safety of American POWs during U.S. air attacks and said it was responsible for not retaining POWs in or near military target areas.

North Vietnam, in a statement issued in Paris, said the POW camp is "situated in a populated zone of Hanoi, near some embassies and containing no military targets."

In reporting the attack Friday on Bach Mai Hospital, Radio Hanoi said "several big-sized bombs fell on the main building, razing it to the ground. Other bombs reduced to rubble many wards, the pharmaceutical room, the operating room, the obstetrics room."

Jean-Christophe Oeberg, Sweden's ambassador to Hanoi who is currently in Stockholm on Christmas holiday, spoke with his embassy by radio telephone and said the hospital had been bombed by B-52s.

"The Americans cannot claim that the hospital was hit by mistake," Oeberg said. "They know that the B-52 cannot carry out precision bombing."

Oeberg said the hospital, which was partly equipped by the Swedish government, was bombed once before in June, when one wing was destroyed.

The U.S. command in Saigon, meanwhile, tightened still further the official restrictions on information about the raids against North Vietnam. A spokesman said that henceforth there will be no announcement of the number of U.S. airmen aboard planes shot down over the North.

North Vietnam, meanwhile, identified 10 more U.S. airmen

it said were captured this week. It said six were B-52 crewmen. Radio Hanoi said eight were presented at a press conference in Hanoi Thursday and two others were too severely injured to appear.

Hanoi identified the eight who appeared at the news conference as Maj. Richard Edgar Johnson, Lt. Michael Robert Martini, Capt. Carl Thomson Wieland, Capt. Kenneth Hill Higdon, Capt. Gordon Ross Nakagawa, Lt. Paul Louis Granger, Capt. Lynn Richard Beens and Capt. Terry Mercer Gelonex.

Hanoi said the fliers who were too badly wounded to ap-

pear were T. Sgt. Roy Madden and William Arcuri. The report did not describe their injuries.

Pope Again Appeals For End to Viet War

From News Dispatches

Pope Paul VI, in his annual Christmas message to the College of Cardinals, spoke out yesterday for the fourth time this week on Vietnam and appealed for a quick end to the war.

The pontiff said the Paris talks between U.S. presidential adviser Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese negotiators had been broken off without the motives "being sufficiently apparent."

"The unexpected rush of events has since then aggravated the bitterness and concern of world opinion," the Pope said. The pontiff said he was praying for a "fair and satisfying end" to the conflict as soon as possible.

At the United Nations, a spokesman said Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has been in contact with the Hanoi government and has also met with representatives of the Big Five powers since the resumption of U.S. bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong.

The spokesman said Waldheim had not yet decided whether to issue an appeal to the parties concerned to stop the bombing and resume negotiations.

Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro accused President Nixon of "thoughtless bloodshed, barbarous destruction and diplomatic perfidy."

In an address which drew thunderous applause from 6,000 Communists attending the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Soviet Union in Moscow, Castro said Vietnam "will win with the firm and decisive support of all of us."

Government sources in Australia said Prime Minister Gough Whitlam has sent a "strongly worded" protest note to President Nixon over the renewed bombing. They said it was the strongest protest Australia has ever made to the United States.

Britain's mass circulation newspaper, the Daily Mirror, devoted its entire front page to an editorial on the bombing, which it called "Nixon's Christmas Deluge of Death."

The newspaper termed the bombing "an act of insane ferocity, a crude exercise in the politics of terror, a blunder of tragic magnitude. It will serve only to blacken Richard Nixon's name—in the color of dried blood," the Daily said.