

Nixon to Call Brief Holiday Halt to Raids**But Assault  
Will Resume**

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**KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla.,**  
Dec. 23—President Nixon has approved a short Christmas halt in the Indochina bombing but will resume the intensive assaults on North Vietnam afterwards as well as pursue secret diplomatic moves designed to reach a negotiated settlement.

This dual approach to Hanoi was confirmed today by administration officials, but there was no direct word from the President, who maintained silence as he has done since the Paris negotiations broke down more than a week ago.

Official word of a truce over Christmas had been expected here today, but it was explained that the President would not make the announcement or have any comment when it is made elsewhere. Neither would he reply to growing criticisms of his policy voiced both at home and abroad.

The President worked alone today at his home here. No advisers were expected to come here before his return to Washington shortly after Christmas.

If the past is any indication, however, he has pursued in secret a variety of moves to try to get the negotiations in an active phase again.

In the past two weeks, the public record shows that Mr. Nixon has conferred in person with only three persons on Vietnam: Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), and national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger and his deputy, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr.

Kissinger and Haig left here Friday to spend Christmas with their families. Neither is expected to return here unless the President extends his

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stay beyond Tuesday or Wednesday. When he left Washington Wednesday, a spokesman said the President would return to Washington a day or two after Christmas.

With the President isolated from newsmen, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler has in the main referred questioners to past presidential pronouncements on Vietnam, beginning particularly with the May 8 address to the nation announcing the order to mine North Vietnamese harbors.

Ziegler has emphasized, however, that the President is pursuing "every avenue" open to him to bring about a resumption of negotiations.

In the May 8 speech, Mr. Nixon declared that the bombing and mining operations "will cease when the following conditions are met:

"First, all American prisoners of war must be released.

"Second, there must be an internationally supervised cease-fire throughout Indochina."

At a news conference in San Clemente, Calif., on Aug. 29, the President was asked if he might call off the bombing or slacken it even if there is no all-inclusive agreement on Indochina.

"Absolutely not," he said. He added that "Unless there is progress on the negotiating front, which is substantial, there will be no reduction of the bombing of North Vietnam, and there will be no lifting of the mining."

Ziegler has repeatedly said this week that the intensified bombing is designed to prevent another communist offensive, but the President's words in his press conferences indicate that his real objective is to force Hanoi to make "progress on the negotiating front."

Arguments even within the administration that such strategy may not bring results at the negotiating table apparently have had little impact on the President.

Officials acknowledge that the President is eagerly seeking a way to end the fighting before beginning his second term less than a month from now. Nevertheless, there has been no expression or hint or optimism by officials here that he can achieve his objective.