

A 24-HOUR TRUCE GOES INTO EFFECT IN SOUTH VIETNAM

**U.S. Spokesman in Saigon
Won't Comment on Report
of a Bombing Pause**

ANOTHER B-52 DOWNED

**Hanoi Reports Raids Going
on Just Before Holiday
Cease-Fire Begins**

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Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 24—A 24-hour Christmas cease-fire went into effect in South Vietnam this afternoon but there was no indication here that the United States intended to let up on its bombardment of North Vietnam.

There have been reports in Washington that President Nixon has approved a brief pause in the intensive bombing, which was begun seven days ago, but informed American officers here say they have heard nothing to substantiate them.

A spokesman for the United States command would say only "we're not discussing operational matters."

The Hanoi radio reported that as of noon today (11 P.M. Saturday, New York time) the bombing was continuing.

[United Press International in Saigon quoted informed sources as saying that the bombing had been halted, at least in the Hanoi-Haiphong area, for the Christmas holiday.]

Another B-52 Lost

The command reported the loss of another B-52 Stratofortress and an F-4 fighter-bomber, the 11th B-52 and the fifth fighter-bomber to go down since the full-scale bombing got under way Monday.

Five of the presumably six men aboard the B-52, which crashed in Laos Thursday after being hit on a mission over North Vietnam, were rescued as were both crewmen of the fighter-bomber. The smaller plane crashed into the Gulf of Tonkin east of Haiphong yesterday. The command said it had delayed reporting the latest loss of a B-52 until efforts to

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recover the crewmen ended.

The sixth man believed to have been aboard the eight-engine bomber was listed as missing.

The command has so far reported at least 56 American airmen as missing in action since Monday, 21 of whom have been captured and displayed at news conferences in Hanoi.

The North Vietnamese said they shot down three more American fighter-bombers this morning, for a total of 47 aircraft destroyed in the current raids, including 17 B-52's.

Despite the unprecedented heavy bombing of North Vietnam, American spokesman appeared at the allied military news briefing. The Americans have been taking a holiday from the briefings on Sundays for several months and Maj. Gilbert Whiteman, one of the usual briefing officers, suggested the command saw no reasons to make an exception.

"Everybody expects there not to be a briefing on Sunday," Major Whiteman said.

Cease-Fire Announced

Attendance at the briefing was down considerably from Saturday, but, nevertheless, nearly 50 correspondents were present, many of them expecting that the command would be represented. Both Major Whiteman and Major Jere K. Forbus, another command spokesman, made themselves available to newsmen for questions, but, as has been the case throughout the current bombing, neither disclosed any substantive information other than the latest losses.

The National Liberation Front had announced it would observe a 24-hour Christmas truce beginning at 1 P.M. (midnight

Saturday, New York time) and the Saigon Government said it would break off combat operations for 24 hours at 6 P.M.

At about 4:15 P.M. a South Vietnamese briefing officer said there had been no immediate reports of the Vietcong violating the terms they had set for the cease-fire, but he added that Government military operations, including artillery fire and air strikes, were scheduled to continue unabated until six.

In past years, the American forces in Vietnam have observed holiday cease-fires parallel with those of the South Vietnamese Government troops.