

Yule Halt To Bombing Is Reported

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SAIGON, Dec. 24 — The United States Sunday night reportedly began a brief Christmas pause in the heaviest air bombardment of North Vietnam of the war.

The U.S. command, in a delayed report, confirmed the loss earlier of another B-52 and F-4 fighter-bomber, and an AC-130 gunship, which normally carries a crew of 12.

The command declined to comment on the report of a bombing pause, but responsible American officials confirmed that the air assault on the north—as well as U.S. bombing in the South—had been temporarily halted Sunday night.

The informants indicated that the bombing pause would roughly parallel a 24-hour South Vietnamese cease-fire that went into effect at 6 p.m. Sunday. The Vietcong also announced that it would observe a 24-hour Christmas cease-fire.

Officials said American planes continued bombing North Vietnam earlier Sunday in the seventh day of the heaviest raids of the war.

In delayed reports, the U.S. command announced that another B-52 was hit Thursday over North Vietnam and crashed in Laos.

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