

# Bombers Pound Hanoi, Haiphong

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SAIGON (AP) — U.S. B52 bombers and fighter-bombers resumed attacks on the Hanoi and Haiphong areas of North Vietnam today after a 36-hour bombing halt for Christmas, the U.S. Command announced.

The Command also reported that American air strikes had been resumed across South Vietnam at dusk Monday following a 24-hour cease-fire.

The Command made no comment on air operations in Laos, but other U.S. officials said they had continued through Christmas with no apparent letup.

THE Command did not explain why the bombing halt in the North lasted longer than the cease-fire in the South. Nor would it say whether the attack was resumed on the massive scale employed last week, when the raids were the heaviest of the war.

U.S. officials had indicated earlier that the bombing halt over North Vietnam had been planned for 24 hours and had been extended on an hour-to-hour basis while President Nixon awaited some sign from Hanoi that it was ready to agree to his peace terms.

A statement by Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin touched off speculation that he might have been in touch with Nixon. Tass, the Soviet news agency, reported that Kosygin told Ambassador Vo Thuc Dong of North Vietnam that the Soviet government expects immediate termination of the bombing and signing of a cease-fire agreement. But observers in Moscow interpreted Kosygin's remarks as an expression of desire rather than a prediction. \*

The roadblock to a peace agreement has been the U.S. demand that Hanoi recognize two separate states in Vietnam, retreating from the concept of unification promised in the 1954 Gene-

va Agreement that ended the French Indochina War.

THE U.S. Military Command refused all comment on the bombing cessation, which other officials said began before midnight Sunday as part of the allied cease-fire for Christmas. 24 DEC

Radio Hanoi has reported no air attacks after Sunday night but said today that U.S. B52 bombers destroyed the Bac Thai provincial hospital and sanatorium north of Hanoi in "concentrated" bombing raids on Christmas Eve.

The broadcast claimed the towns of Thai Nguyen, Ha Bac and Lang Son also were bombed on Dec. 24, and the raiders "killed and wounded a great

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many civilians, including Catholic people who were celebrating Christmas services." Lang Son is just below the Chinese border.

Hanoi claimed that it shot down another B52 during the attack on Bac Thai but made no mention of what happened to the six crewmen.

IT WAS the 18th B52 — and the 53rd U.S. warplane — claimed by North Vietnam since U.S. bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong area and other targets north of the 20th parallel was resumed on Dec. 18.

The U.S. Command has acknowledged the loss of 18 planes, including 11 B52s, and at least 70 airmen are missing.

In South Vietnam, 24-hour Christmas cease-fires proclaimed by the South Vietnamese government and the Viet

Cong ended with each side charging the other with numerous violations. The Saigon command charged the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese with 58 attacks during the truce periods and said 45 South Vietnamese and 60 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were killed.

The U.S. Command reported that American AC130 gunships attacked a North Vietnamese convoy of about 25 vehicles last night northeast of Tay Ninh, near the Cambodia border, where a North Vietnamese buildup is reported under way. The command said the results were not known because of darkness.

NO ATTACKS on U.S. forces were reported during the cease-fire periods. But 30 rockets hit the Da Nang Air Base before dawn today. Military officials said one American soldier was wounded and three U.S. helicopters were damaged.