

# 400,000 Evacuated From Hanoi

Agence France-Presse

HANOI, Dec. 26—Hanoi authorities took advantage of the Christmas bombing lull to evacuate some 400,000 of the city's one million residents to the countryside, according to a well-informed source here.

The shops in the city are still open, and water and power supplies, which were frequently interrupted last week, have been restored.

A senior North Vietnamese official said authorities were having some difficulty finding housing for the American pilots shot down over this country last week.

"We are going through a real crisis over these pilots," he said.

The official said that despite great mourning for the dead in Hanoi the population felt that the country had demonstrated "the bankruptcy" of the blanket bombing of the capital over the past week.

"This is the first time a little country like ours, with its limited resources, has shown up the vulnerability of the B-52s, which were considered to be technically remarkable aircraft," the official said.

[A U.S. Command spokesman in Saigon said yesterday that 17 American planes had been shot down over the North during the past week, including 11 B-52 bombers. He said 57 U.S. fliers were missing.]

Parts of the downed B-52s are on display at various points around Hanoi. The official said, "Today we are completely familiar with the workings of these planes, including the computers they carry."

He said, "If we only had more help from our brother socialist countries we would not have needed to deploy our treasures of courage and ingenuity."

His remark reflected a widespread feeling here that Hanoi could use the kind of armaments the Soviet Union in the past supplied to Egypt.

American planes were within 40 miles of Hanoi Wednesday morning after the capital had spent its calmest night since the resumption of U.S. bombing Dec. 18.

There had been no full air raid alert here since Christmas eve.

An article in Nhan Dan, the official Communist Party

daily, said today that the North Vietnamese defense minister, General Giap, who was alleged by Saigon sources to have been killed in a Hai-phong mine explosion, had sent a bouquet of flowers Christmas Eve to a Hanoi missile unit.

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