

[Network voice:] The Pentagon has issued another denial today concerning charges a civilian facility was hit during the latest raids. Bob Shaeffer has details in Washington.

Shaeffer: The Pentagon now rejects charges from foreign news agencies that a large, 1,000-bed hospital in Hanoi has been damaged during the American air raids on the capital city area. The Department's official spokesman, Jerry W. Friedheim, told a news briefing here, quote, "We have not bombed any large hospitals." Pressed by a newsman who wanted to know if the Pentagon was ready to dismiss the report as enemy propaganda, Friedheim nodded yes.

Friedheim's comments came during a half-hour meeting with reporters, during which he detailed 68 military targets that U.S. bombers struck in the Hanoi and Haiphong areas last week. Again today he said he had no information to release on the number of civilian casualties caused by the bombing, and, asked several times if the Pentagon thought the bombing had any military benefit, he declined to answer, saying the question has been addressed before.

Bob Shaeffer, CBS News, the Pentagon.