

## Downed Bombers on Public Display

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# Hanoi's Pride Over B-52 Kills

### Hanoi

North Vietnamese authorities are having difficulty housing U.S. pilots shot down last week, a senior official said yesterday.

"We are going through a real housing crisis over these pilots," he said with a twinkle in his eye.

His wry complaint failed to conceal the pride he felt at the vulnerability of the U.S. B-52 crews. In spite of thousands of dead and the mourning inflicted on virtually all families in Hanoi, the population feels that North Vietnam has demonstrated the "bankruptcy" of the giant bombers that have been carpet-bombing the capital and other main towns over the past week.

The official said: "This is the first time a little country like ours, with its limited re-

sources, has shown up the vulnerability of the B-52s, which were considered to be technically remarkable aircraft."

"Today we are completely familiar with the workings of these planes, including the computers they carry," he declared.

But he went on, "If only we had more help from our brother socialist countries, we should not have needed to deploy our treasures of courage and ingenuity."

His remark reflected a widespread feeling here that Hanoi could do with the kind of armament the Soviet Union supplied to Egypt in the past. "Then we could win ever greater victories," some North Vietnamese say. They point to the skilled handling of their slightly outmoded planes by pilots

attacking U.S. bombers as they approach the cities.

The people of Hanoi are now getting a very close look at the B-52s as pieces of them are set up on display at various points of the city.

Authorities took advantage of the Christmas bombing lull to evacuate a large number of Hanoi residents to the countryside. According to a well-informed source, about 400,000 of the million persons living in Hanoi and the close vicinity have left the city during the past few days.

The workers party daily Nhan Dan said in an editorial yesterday that "the past week has been a trial, on the material as well as the moral level, for everyone in Hanoi," because of the "giant psychological warfare machinery which is hammering on our nerves night and day."

The editorial, which appeared under the headline "Hanoi, City of Human Dignity," said that President Nixon, "celebrating Christmas with blood on his hands," was resorting to a tactics consisting of "conducting simultaneously negotiations and B-52 bombardments."

The U.S. leadership has implemented its "fortious diplomacy" with "the cynicism of a gangster," the paper said.

"The aggressors, in the face of our good will, thought we were weak and deployed a smoke-screen of optimism to try to deceive us," it added. The paper went on to quote the words of a young militia woman who had said: "Men can break down but Man cannot break down."

In another article, Nhan

Dan quoted a White House statement on December 23 concerning the decision to continue the bombing until the North Vietnamese return to the negotiating table for "serious" discussions.

The article said: "We reject Nixon's moves of intimidation."

It denounced the "insolence" of American attempts to "bring pressures to bear on our people in order to seek a position of force in the negotiations."

The same newspaper also reported that General Giap, the North Vietnamese defense minister, claimed by Saigon sources to have died in a Haiphong mine explosion, had sent a bouquet of flowers on Christmas eve to a Hanoi elite missile unit.

Agence France-Presse