

2 More B-52's Downed, Bringing the Total to 14

U.S. Reverts to Its Policy of Silence on Targets in North Vietnam—Hanoi Reports 31 Bombers Shot Down

By SYLVAN FOX

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Friday, Dec. 29 — The United States military command reported the loss of two more B-52 bombers yesterday as the air attack on North Vietnam that began 12 days ago continued without letup.

The new losses brought to 14 the number of B-52s that the United States says have been shot down since the air raids north of the 20th Parallel resumed on Dec. 18.

North Vietnam says that 31 of the bombers have been brought down by antiaircraft fire and surface-to-air missiles.

In announcing the new losses, the United States command reverted once again to its policy of withholding all information on the number of missions flown and the targets against which they are aimed.

On Wednesday the command broke a 10-day silence by announcing it had flown 147 B-52 missions and 1,000 tactical air strikes against 55 military targets in North Vietnam since Dec. 18.

Nineteen of the targets, including the Hanoi railroad yards, the city's power plant and its port facilities, were within 10 miles of the center of Hanoi, the command said.

Seven of the targets — among them a shipyard, another power plant and a naval base — were within six miles of the center of Haiphong, North Vietnam's major port.

At least three of the targets, the command said yesterday, had never before been attacked by American bombers. These were identified as Hanoi's port facilities and two communications installations near the North Vietnamese capital.

The command has consistently refused to comment on civilian installations in North Vietnam that reportedly have been bombed, including several diplomatic missions, a hospital in Hanoi and at least three cargo ships.

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bombs during a raid on Wednesday.

When asked yesterday if he would identify targets that had been attacked since the list was made public on Wednesday, Maj. Jere K. Forbus, a military spokesman, said, "I have no details to discuss with you at this time."

He said, however, that the "operation is continuing" and that the command would announce further details about the bombing "as soon as we can."

Meanwhile, Tin Song, a quasi-official South Vietnamese newspaper, asserted that the United States was preparing to limit the bombing to the area south of the 20th Parallel in a few days to pave the way for the resumption of peace talks in Paris.

The newspaper said that the United States ambassador, Ellsworth Bunker, and Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, the American commander in South Vietnam, had visited President Nguyen Van Thieu yesterday to inform him of the planned limitation.

Crewmen Missing

Although Government sources confirmed that Ambassador Bunker and General Weyand had gone to the Presidential Palace to see Mr. Thieu, they were unable to confirm the Tin Song report.

The United States command said one of the two B-52's reported lost yesterday crashed Tuesday near Hanoi. The command said the crewmen of the bomber were missing, but declined to disclose the number of men aboard. Normally B-52's carry six men.

The command explained that announcement of the loss of the plane had been delayed while a search was conducted for the missing men.

The second plane reported lost yesterday went down in the morning, the command said near the Royal Thai air base at Nakhon Phanom after being damaged over North Vietnam. The command said the six crewmen aboard the plane ejected safely.

The command also announced yesterday the loss of a CH-53 rescue helicopter that crashed in Laos as a result of damage it suffered over North Vietnam. Major Forbus said the crew was rescued, but would not disclose how many men were aboard. He said one crewman had been shot in the hand when the helicopter was struck by enemy fire, but he declined to say whether the craft was on a rescue mission.

U.S. Lists Casualties

In a summary of battle casualties for last week, the command said seven Americans had been killed throughout Indochina compared with one the

previous week, and 73 Americans were missing or captured compared with none the previous week.

The total of missing or captured Americans throughout Indochina is now 1,742.

The 31 B-52's that Hanoi reports it has shot down include five it says were downed Wednesday night. 27 DEC

In a broadcast last night, the Hanoi radio said that "many" American airmen, whom it described as "air pirates," had been captured. The broadcast added: "The more the United States imperialists step up their war adventures, the more they sustain heavy setbacks. Our people and armed forces are determined to deal the United States Air Force heavier blows and to win greater victories."

Hanoi Reports Successes

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 28 — North Vietnam said in a statement issued here today that its air defenses had accounted for a third of all the B-52's mobilized for the current bombing attacks.

The statement said 31 B-52's had been shot down since the bombing resumed on Dec. 18, and asserted that American losses were even higher if account was taken of the bombers that had been damaged, including some that had been unable to regain their bases and had crashed outside North Vietnam.

Hanoi's spokesman here, Nguyen Than Le, said that 71 planes in all had been downed.

"The number of pilots killed or captured has also reached a record," Mr. Lee added.

'Terror Bombings' Protested

The statement, which protested "terror bombings unprecedented in history," asserted that the United States had mobilized close to 10,000 tactical aircraft and all of the strategic B-52s available in the Pacific and in Southeast Asia. It added that 50,000 tons of bombs had been dropped in addition to bombardment by warships against coastal cities, including Haiphong.

"Numerous heavily popu-

Hanoi's claim of B52s shot down following resumption of bombing after Christmas pause:

8 B52s on 26 Dec

5 B52s on 27 Dec

lated areas of Hanoi, Haiphong as well as many places in the suburbs of those cities have been destroyed," the statement said.

North Vietnam has refused to hold any more negotiating sessions here while the attacks go on. Instead, it has resorted to almost daily protests that have emphasized its determination to resist what Mr. Le asserted was an effort by the Nixon Administration "to use to a maximum military pressure to make the Vietnamese people bow before the American aggression."