

DEC 2 9 1972

# Peace, Friendship And Other Disasters



**Arthur Hoppe**

"HERE ARE the photographs of the damage, Mr. President. As you can see, the entire city's in ruins."

"Thank you. Good heavens, let me say that this is the worst disaster I have witnessed since Election Day, 1962. Get me the State Department on the phone."

"The State Department?"

"Yes, we must do everything possible to show the world that in the event of a catastrophe of this nature anyone may count on America's deep humanitarianism, generosity and friendship."

"Yes, sir, but . . ."

"No buts. I want every available plane loaded with food, clothing, blankets and medical supplies. I suppose they're without lights or power?"

"Yes, sir, the power station was knocked out, but . . ."

"Send them generators, water tankers, better send Bob Hope and a U.S.O. troop, too."

"To Hanoi, sir?"

"Hanoi?"

"That's an aerial photograph of Hanoi, sir."

"Damn it. I thought it was Managua, Nicaragua."

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"I'M SORRY, sir. It should have been labeled more clearly. A whole batch of aerial photographs came in this morning. Now this one . . ."

"Let me see that. Hah! Just as I thought. Look at that. There's a building still clearly standing. Get me the Air Force on the phone."

"The Air Force, sir?"

"I want that building hit with everything we've got. I don't care how many B-52s we lose in these most massive air raids in history. We must show the world America's firm and unyielding commitment to peace by bombing these recalci-

trant North Vietnamese to the conference table. Again."

"But, sir . . ."

"No buts. Look at that photographic evidence of the destruction I can wreak when my wrath is roused!"

"Yes, sir, but that's the Nicaraguan earthquake."

"Good heavens! I wonder what they did to anger Him? In any event, carry out these two missions in the name of friendship and peace and report back tomorrow."

"Yes, sir."

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"EXCUSE ME, sir. But you asked me to report back on those two missions you ordered yesterday to Managua and Hanoi."

"Well, what are the results?"

"Good news, sir. Hanoi's agreed to your peace terms."

"I knew it! They just couldn't stand up any longer to my massive bombing attacks, eh?"

"Not exactly, sir. There seems to have been a slight mix-up. But Hanoi says that in gratitude for your sending them food, clothing, blankets and Bob Hope, they are laying down their arms forever."

"Look, not a word of this little error. Peace is peace. At last we've achieved it . . . Wait a minute, are we at war with Nicaragua?"

"No, sir. They want to thank us for sending 100 B-52s to assist them in their demolition efforts. In gratitude, they pledge their undying friendship."

"All right. But henceforth, I want these photographs carefully separated and clearly indexed."

"Yes, sir. And how should I file them?"

"Under 'Catastrophes,' of course. But label one, 'Peace,' and the other, 'Friendship.'"