

Hanoi Reports a Second Hospital Is Bombed by U.S.

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HANOI, North Vietnam, Dec. 29 (Agence France-Presse)—American planes bombed another hospital here in a daylight raid yesterday, medical sources reported.

It was identified as the Mai Huong Hospital, close to the Bach Mai Hospital, which was destroyed by bombing last week.

This time, there were no B-52's. From 12:30 to 1:45 P.M., United States fighter-bombers made several sweeps over Hanoi, dropping strings of bombs on the city's southern outskirts.

The capital's antiaircraft guns shook the city center, but surface-to-air missiles did not appear to have been used. American tactical aircraft had been bombing at some distance from central Hanoi an hour earlier.

Deaths Put at 2,000

Today a noted medical specialist, Prof. Ton That Tung, told newsmen that in the first tally of civilian bombing casualties to be issued from a reliable source that the Hanoi bombings had killed about 200 civilians a day and had wounded about 200 others.

Since Dec. 18, when the United States resumed its bombing of North Vietnam above the 20th Parallel, and yesterday, the city's toll has been 2,000 killed and as many wounded, said Professor Tung, who is the director of the Vietnam-Germany Friendship Hospital, one of three hospitals that attend to air raid victims.

Raids by B-52's killed as many as they wounded, Professor Tung said, adding: "We had to operate on Christmas Eve."

Tells of Types of Wounds

He said that the bombs contained octol, an explosive that he said was twice as powerful as TNT and produced a much swifter fire blast. It was surprising, he said, how few wounds had been caused by bomb fragments. On the other hand, in contrast with the results of traditional bombing, he said, some of the more frequently encountered wounds were skull fractures and internal wounds of the abdomen and chest.

The attack yesterday afternoon, according to news correspondents' reckoning, was the city's 56th bombing or alert since Dec. 18.

This morning, the sirens sounded for the 60th time since the raids were resumed.

Also yesterday, the press office of the Foreign Ministry here showed journalists a map of Hanoi. It indicated about 14 points where American aircraft had struck at the city itself, either by carpet-bombing or with individual bombs, and 20 regions within a 10-mile

radius of the city center that had been hit.

Shortly after the newsmen were shown that map, Saigon presented its own version of it, in which only two "military" objectives, including the central railway station, were hit. The day before Jerry W. Friedheim, the Pentagon spokesman, denied that civilian targets were being bombed in Hanoi itself and characterized as "propaganda" reports that the Bach Mai Hospital, for itself, had been damaged.

The fact is that Bach Mai, a 900-bed hospital where 300 people were undergoing treatment at the outset of the resumed raids on the city, was not only "damaged," but literally razed by several large bombs. Foreign diplomats and journalists here, including the correspondent of Agence France-Presse, visited its ruins.

As they walked between giant craters and between piles of stone from which bodies of young nurses were still being extricated, "propaganda" was farthest from their minds. Bach Mai was bombed twice, on Dec. 19 and last Thursday, according to North Vietnamese officials. Last June, it was damaged by an American bomb in what Washington termed an "error."

Life in the Shelters

Hanoi is now living largely as a troglodyte city, the people hurrying to the shelters at the first wail of the sirens. They sleep there and they eat there, if they must, until the all-clear. But despite the privations and the mounting toll of dead and wounded, morale remains intact and people still smile in the streets.

With water and electricity supplies cut, they have set up emergency systems to provide those essential services, though sometimes only for a few hours at a time, after nightfall. And while they have done their best to see to the comfort of foreigners, newsmen sometimes have to write their dispatches by candlelight and wash in two-pint water rations.

The people are also showing signs of aggressiveness and readiness to fight that were not so noticeable previously. It is not uncommon for foreigners to hear people, even children, saying in Vietnamese: "Nixon is a bastard, but he won't get us."

The same sentiment, if in more restrained language, is heard in political circles. "After 30 years of combat, struggles and sacrifices, we are not going to bend the knee now," is one comment.

The city's doctors and surgeons are often forced to work in concrete shelters converted into makeshift operating rooms. Besides Professor Tung's hos-

pital, the two others that received those wounded in bombings are Saint Paul, near the Communist embassies, and Dong Da, in central Hanoi.

Pentagon Won't Comment

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 — A Pentagon spokesman had no comment today on an Agence France-Presse report of American planes bombing the Mai Huong Hospital in Hanoi. "As we have said repeatedly, we do not target nonmilitary targets," the spokesman said.

The Pentagon's refusal again to comment on reports of civilian casualties in the Hanoi-Haiphong area. Jerry W. Friedheim, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, said at the morning news briefing that "I don't have anything to give you," on civilian casualties.

To reporters who asked repeatedly about foreign reports of heavy damage and casualties in nonmilitary sections of the capital, Mr. Friedheim said:

"You'll have to judge the sources of that information." Pressed on reports of "carpet-bombing" of civilian areas by B-52's he said:

"The adjectives you'll have to choose for yourself. If the implication of your question is that we are bombing civilian areas, the answer is no, we are not. If the implication of your question is that B-52's are able to cover a railroad yard, the answer is yes."

He said that "we do know" of instances where aircraft have gone down in the city and of instances in which anti-aircraft missiles had "gone ballistic" and had exploded on impact in the city.

A reported asked: "Is it your position that you don't want to discuss civilian casualties, and you don't want to tell us the reasons you don't want to discuss the topic, and that any comment is that the North Vietnamese often use such situations for propaganda purposes?"

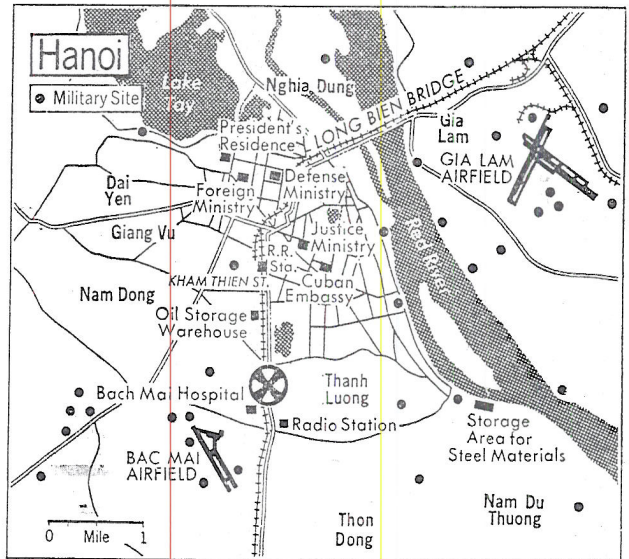
"I'll accept that summation," Mr. Friedheim replied.

See also Jean Leclerc du Sablon, SFChronicle 30 Dec 72.



United Press International

Diplomats visiting Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi on Wednesday. North Vietnamese officials said it was bombed twice—Dec. 19 and last Thursday. It is close to the Mai Huong Hospital, reported struck yesterday.



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U.S. bombs reportedly hit Mai Huong Hospital, which is near Bach Mai Hospital (cross), struck last week. Mai Huong could not be located on available maps.