

Bombing Ends; Talks Resume Jan. 8

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon has ordered the bombing of North Vietnam halted and Henry Kissinger's secret Paris peace talks will resume Jan. 8, the White House said today.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said the President ordered suspension of bombing raids above the 20th parallel "as soon as it was clear

serious negotiations could be resumed."

Kissinger's private negotiations with Hanoi politburo member Le Duc Tho and the head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, Xuan Thuy, will be resuming after a halt of nearly one month. The talks broke off Dec. 13 and Nixon began the heaviest bombing of the war on Dec. 18.

Warren said technical talks between

experts from both sides will resume Jan. 2. These lower level talks have continued sporadically since Kissinger's sessions reached an impasse.

The White House spokesman refused to say whether Nixon's bombing-halt order already had taken effect. But indications were that it had—or that it would soon.

"The President has ordered that all bombing be discontinued above the

20th parallel as long as serious negotiations are under way," Warren said in his brief announcement.

HANOI HAD INSISTED on such a

bombing halt before talks could resume. When asked whether Nixon had received a signal from Hanoi that the Communists were ready to alter their

negotiating stance, Warren responded that he could not yet discuss the content of discussions with the other side.

But he referred to Kissinger's statement on Dec. 16 when the presidential adviser said he would remain in contact with Hanoi and that talks could resume when the other side was ready to meet for serious negotiations.

The White House stressed that the

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bombing halt applies only above the 20th parallel. This means that the Hanoi and Haiphong heartland will again be off limits to U.S. air attacks but lower portions of North Vietnam will still be subject to bombardment.

Kissinger, who has been vacationing on the West Coast, has been in daily telephone contact with the President and will return to Washington for extensive conversations with Nixon before heading for Paris, Warren said.

Heading the U.S. delegation to the technical talks which resume Tuesday will be Ambassador-at-large William Sullivan, Warren said.

The announcement at the hurriedly called White House news conference came as the President was at his Camp David retreat in the Maryland mountains, where he went Thursday and where he is expected to stay until after the New Year's holiday.