

# Europe Hails U.S.

## Action

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LONDON—European government leaders, both critics and friends of President Nixon's Vietnam policies, joined yesterday in welcoming the new U.S. bombing pause in North Vietnam and the decision to resume peace talks.

Prime Minister Edward Heath of Britain issued a statement on the announced talks saying:

"We must all pray that they will lead to a successful outcome."

Among the leaders of America's overseas allies, Heath has been one of the staunchest in his refusal to criticize Nixon's Vietnam tactics. But Heath came under increasing pressure from opposition Labor Party politicians to condemn the latest bombing wave.

### 'Hope Is Reborn'

He reminded his critics yesterday that "it is easy to demand condemnatory statements" but past experience shows this is "not always the best way of bringing peace nearer."

The French government was deliberately silent over the past days of bombing, using its influence behind the scenes to try to get the stalled Paris peace talks going again. But Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, said after the Washington announcement:

"Hope is reborn. I am beginning to think that our constant efforts will not have been in vain."

Chancellor Willy Brandt's West German government also avoided comment during the bombing, but a spokesman at the German

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federal press office greeted the Washington announcement "with relief."

### 'Encouraging'

Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden, one of the most outspoken European critics of U.S. war effort in Vietnam, called the bombing halt "a very encouraging step in the right direction."

"I am convinced that the powerful international movement of opinion against the bombings was important in the decision," Palme added.

Swedish Foreign Minister Krister Wickman said Nixon's decision came as a surprise, despite reports that the bomb attacks might be halted over the New Year holiday.

"After the violent bomb campaign, and the international protests it aroused, it is unreasonable to think that the United States could resume this kind of negotiation tactics again," Wickman said.

### 'World Indignation'

The Soviet Union, after a delay of more than four hours, issued a brief announcement of President Nixon's decision through its official Tass News Agency.

In Budapest the Hungarian radio said Nixon ordered a termination of air raids in North Vietnam as a result "of worldwide indignation."

"Nixon's decision is good news," the radio said. "Against all expectations, this year may still end as a year of hope for peace."

The Danish prime minister, Anker Joergensen, said the Washington announcement was a sign "the United States has finally come to its senses."

Joergensen, however, expressed "some skepticism, since we have unfortunately been disappointed too many times before when hoping for peace in Indochina."

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