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For Residents in Hanoi, A Full Night's Sleep

By Agence France-Presse

HANOI, North Vietnam, Dec. 31—The people of Hanoi were able to get a full night's sleep last night for the first time since the United States bombing began two weeks ago.

Fewer people in the streets wore helmets today, but as many as ever dug air-raid shelters, for the average Vietnamese does not seem to believe that the bombing is really over.

Although neither the press nor the radio has reported news of the halt in the bombing, everyone seems to be aware of the report. But the people are skeptical.

You hear people say: "With Nixon you never know, you have to be wary. It is not the first time he halted the

bombings to resume them a few days later."

The American attacks against Hanoi resumed on a large scale on Dec. 18 with, for the first time, the use of giant B-52's. Heavily populated areas of the capital were devastated, and activities in the capital were paralyzed during the raids.

According to North Vietnamese officials, every day of the raids cost 200 dead and as many wounded in the capital, without counting the casualties in other densely populated regions, such as Haiphong, also hit by heavy bombing raids.

Since the sirens went silent here Friday just before mid-

Continued on Page 3, Column 2

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

night, there have been only a few "pre-alerts" warning that either bombers or reconnaissance planes were within the Hanoi region. Tonight there has been total silence.

But after 30 years of war, the population of Hanoi lives next to the air-raid shelters.

Among the 300,000 people who remain in the capital, out of a normal population of about one million, many took to their bicycles or hopped rides on trucks or carts today for a New Year's visit with relatives in the country. Some carried packets of the week's newspapers to inform their friends of the situation in Hanoi.

Among people digging under the destroyed buildings of Hanoi to recover their dead, more and more are wearing the white turbans of mourning.

A Mocking Tone

The children greet foreigners not only with friendly smiles but also with words among which one recognizes "Nixon" mingled with unflattering remarks judging by the harshness and the mockery of the tone in which they are pronounced.

In the formerly crowded suburbs, the population has diminished sharply. People who have not gone to the country have taken refuge in the center city near the embassies, which would have

seemed like a safe place but which have also been hit.

Near Hoan Kiem Lake, dirty-faced children play in groups, while women cook on wood fires near hidden bomb shelters.

On the walls are posters announcing the number of American planes destroyed and pilots captured, along with more and more ferocious caricatures of President Nixon in the form of a devil.

But even in its center, where loudspeakers today were playing the 'Song of Victory,' Hanoi is no longer the cramped city it used to be.

On the street, leading from Hoan Kiem Lake to the central market, one of every three stores is closed and many shops and houses are

shuttered. Still, small groups gather in front of the clothing stands, the counters with plastic items, the wig sellers and the cake stands.

Flower sellers continue to sell their bouquets. The young women are still elegant and beautiful, even when poorly clothed. People continue to drink their beer or their tea, and eat their cakes on the street corners.

But the atmosphere is heavy, nonetheless. There will be few public celebrations here this year-end, even among the foreigners. All diplomatic receptions have been canceled, notably the traditional one given by the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry at the International Club.