

# NEW YEAR'S TRUCE HALTED ALL RAIDS, U.S. AIDES INDICATE

But Officials Do Not Offer Confirmation—24-Hour Pause Is Ended

## CLASHES AT QUANG TRI

34 Enemy Violations of the Cease-Fire Reported by Saigon's Command

By FOX BUTTERFIELD  
Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Tuesday, Jan. 2—American planes temporarily halted their bombing yesterday against targets in North Vietnam below the 20th parallel and in all South Vietnam to observe a New Year's Day cease-fire, United States officials indicated.

The New Year's Day cease-fire was separate from the indefinite halt in the intensive aerial campaign against the Hanoi-Haiphong region and other areas above the 20th Parallel in North Vietnam called by President Nixon on Saturday.

Thirty-four Communist violations of the New Year's cease-fire were reported by the South Vietnamese command, slightly lower than the 40 incidents reported initiated by the Communists on the day before the truce began. A Saigon military spokesman said 10 South Vietnamese had been killed and 63 wounded, with 35 Communists killed.

### Fighting at Quan Tri

The 24-hour pause in the fighting proclaimed by the South Vietnamese Government ended on Monday at 6 P.M.

Saigon time (5 A.M. Monday, New York time). A similar truce declared by the Communists expired one hour later.

The only major fighting reported during the cease-fire occurred near devastated Quang Tri city just south of the demilitarized zone, where the North Vietnamese were said to have fired over 300 mortar rounds and artillery shells into Government paratroop positions and several sharp ground clashes also took place.

Although several American officials privately indicated to newsmen that United States planes had temporarily stopped their attacks over southern North Vietnam and South Vietnam for the New Year's cease-fire, the United States command refused to confirm the pause.

### U.S. Refuses Comment

In keeping with its policy of remaining silent on information that began when President Nixon ordered the large-scale bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong renewed, command spokesmen would say only "no comment" when asked about the pause.

[United States officials also indicated, according to The Associated Press, that while American bombers were free to resume air strikes over South Vietnam after expiration of the 24-hour cease-fire, air operations over the southern panhandle of North Vietnam would remain cut off until Tuesday morning or afternoon.]

Before the cease-fire began Sunday, American planes, including B-52 heavy bombers and smaller Air Force, Navy and Marine fighter-bombers, reportedly attacked targets in the North Vietnamese panhandle and South Vietnam.

### 199 Air Strikes

One of the few disclosures the United States command made in its daily war communique yesterday was that American fighters had carried out 199 tactical air strikes over South Vietnam on Sunday.

Navy A-7 pilots from the aircraft carrier Oriskany were said to have knocked out two North

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Vietnamese tanks 15 miles southwest of Quang Tri city and destroyed an enemy bulldozer and .51-caliber machine gun near Kontum city in the Central Highlands.

The command refused again to provide any information on the number or location of B-52 raids Sunday as it has for the last two weeks.

The command also said that United States troop strength in South Vietnam last week dropped by 100 men to 24,100, the lowest number since Jan. 31, 1965, when there were 23,800.

But there are also 39,000 seamen on the Seventh Fleet ships off the coast of Vietnam and about 40,000 Air Force personnel in Thailand supporting the bombing campaign.



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U.S. jets reportedly hit enemy bulldozer at Kontum (1) as well as two tanks near Quang Tri city (2).