

Hanoi Quotes B-52 Flyer On Damage

Tokyo

North Vietnam reported today that the captured navigator of a downed B-52 bomber made a tour of Hanoi and discovered the areas hit in U.S. raids were "of an entirely civilian nature."

A broadcast from the official Vietnam news agency, VNA, quoted First Lieutenant Michael R. Martini as telling the Voice of Vietnam radio in an interview:

"What I saw were not military targets destroyed, but several city blocks — which appeared to be a market place — torn apart, a hospital decimated, and an elementary school entirely leveled to the ground.

"I shall never forget these scenes of utterly senseless devastation. I can see that these targets were of no military value whatsoever. I consider any kind of bombing anywhere in North Vietnam as ineffective and futile."

VNA said Martini's B-52, took off from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam and was downed December 20.

The agency gave Martini's serial number as 573-64-7878. It did not give his home town.

Martini was quoted as saying he had been "treated in a most humane manner" since his capture.

He said the bombings "will never be great enough to subdue the North Vietnamese," the agency reported.

Associated Press