

Hanoi: U.S. Bombs North of Barrier

From News Dispatches

North Vietnam Friday charged that U.S. warplanes bombed a village Thursday north of the 20th parallel and accused the Nixon administration of breaking its promises which led to the decision to resume the Paris negotiations.

A North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman, in a note handed to the Agence France-Presse correspondent and other newsmen in Hanoi, said bombs were dropped on Donglai, a village about 50 miles southwest of Hanoi and midway between the 20th and 21st parallels.

President Nixon had announced on Dec. 30 that the massive raids above the 20th parallel were being suspended to allow a resumption in Paris of the peace talks between Henry Kissinger and Hanoi's Le Duc Tho.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman, asked about Hanoi's charge that U.S. planes had bombed north of the 20th parallel Thursday, said: "We never comment on their reports."

In its note, the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said that the "Nixon administration, which undertook to put an end to bombing and to the mining of ports north of the 20th parallel, and to reduce other bombing below the 20th parallel to allow a resumption of negotiations, immediately broke its promises."

The French news agency also reported from Hanoi that pilotless U.S. reconnaissance planes have flown over Hanoi and Haiphong several times in the past three days.

Scores of U.S. B-52 bombers

and fighter-bombers, meanwhile, carried out heavy raids against the southern panhandle of North Vietnam Friday, the U.S. command announced in Saigon.

The U.S. command reported that B-52 bombers mounted 15 missions in the southern section of North Vietnam, attacking supply traffic in rivers within five miles of the 20th parallel bombing halt line, about 75 miles south of Hanoi. Other U.S. military sources said that there were three bombers on each mission, making 45 strikes.

U.S. military sources said the air campaign is to destroy and delay war materials moving to the battlefronts in South Vietnam.

Command spokesmen refused comment on charges in North Vietnam's official Nhan Dan army newspaper that the United States, while limiting attacks below the 20th parallel, is carrying on reconnaissance "of several other localities in preparation for new acts of military adventure."

Nhan Dan left the clear impression it was referring to the northern Hanoi-Haiphong heartland. American sources outside the U.S. command confirmed that reconnaissance was continuing above the 20th parallel.

These sources added, however, that they knew of no immediate plans to resume the two-week aerial blitz of the Hanoi and Haiphong regions.

In South Vietnam, the Saigon command reported 97 North Vietnamese and Vietcong attacks during the 24-hour period ending at dawn