

# B-52's Raid Supply Routes South of the 20th Parallel

By The Associated Press

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Monday, Jan. 8—United States B-52's bombed highways, rivers and canals in the southern part of North Vietnam over the weekend in what was described as a campaign to keep war supplies from the enemy in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The strikes came on the eve of the resumption of peace talks in Paris today between Le Duc Tho and Henry A. Kissinger.

American military headquarters in Saigon reported that the B-52's flew 14 missions, a total of 42 planes, across the part of North Vietnam south of the 20th Parallel during the 24-hour period that ended at 6 A.M. yesterday. This area excludes Hanoi and Haiphong.

The Hanoi radio however, reported that North Vietnamese forces shot down an unmanned United States aircraft over Son La, 90 miles above the 20th parallel and 125 miles west of Hanoi.

### No Comment on Reconnaissance

The American command said that the halt in the bombing north of the 20th Parallel ordered by President Nixon on Dec. 30 remained in effect but refused to comment on reconnaissance operations in the northern half of North Vietnam.

Other American sources acknowledged, however, that while the halt in the bombing was in effect, reconnaissance operations above the 20th Parallel were continuing and that unmanned aircraft called drones were being employed.

The command said that the targets of the B-52's operating over the southern provinces were storage complexes along highways, rivers and canals 50 miles southwest of the port of Vinh, supply depots to the west and south of Dong Hoi and entrances to the Mu Gia Pass,

the gateway to the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Vinh is 145 miles north of the demilitarized zone, the Mu Gia Pass 70 miles and Dong Hoi are 45 miles above it.

Meanwhile, an editorial in North Vietnam's official army publication, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, said that despite the heavy air attacks and the mining of major North Vietnamese



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Underlining indicates areas struck by B-52's.

ports, the people of the North had triumphed over American technology.

The editorial declared: "Supply convoys continue to head for the front. Communications continue to operate, in spite of the American blockade and the accuracy of American 'smart bombs' which go on destroying

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Earlier, however, North Vietnam had acknowledged that much of its northern heartland, including Hanoi and Haiphong, had been severely damaged and its production impaired and that a national emergency had been declared as a result. North Vietnam indicated that the 12 days of bombing above the 20th Parallel had inflicted the heaviest destruction since the floods of the summer of 1971.

### Emergency Program Ordered

On Saturday, the Hanoi radio reported that Premier Pham Van Dong had ordered an emergency relief program "to stabilize production activities and the people's living conditions in areas hit by U.S. bombs."

And a broadcast yesterday said that Truong Chinh, second-ranking member of the Politburo and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, headed a group of officials that visited military units and devastated regions in Hanoi on Friday.

The broadcast said that one of the installations visited was the Yen Phu power plant serving Hanoi, where Mr. Chinh exhorted the workers "to care for the flow of electrical power to the capital as if it were the flow of blood in your veins."

The United States Command reported earlier that five major power plants serving Hanoi and Haiphong had been heavily damaged in the raids.

### Loss of A-7 Reported

The United States command, meanwhile, reported another loss in the air war. It said that a Navy attack bomber developed mechanical trouble and crashed into the sea Saturday morning shortly after taking off for a mission from the carrier Midway. The pilot, its only occupant, was killed, the command reported.

The command also said that smaller fighter-bombers carried out 123 missions below the 20th Parallel during the 24-hour period that ended at 8 A.M. yesterday. But it said that little assessment of bombing damage was available because of overcast skies. It did report that supply caches, supply boats and trucks were destroyed in those attacks.

In South Vietnam, B-52's carried out 19 missions, attacking troop concentrations and staging areas from just below the demilitarized zone to the Mekong Delta. Several of the raids were on the big Michelin

rubber plantation about 45 miles northwest of Saigon, on a traditional North Vietnamese and Vietcong infiltration route.

For the fifth day in a row, attacks by the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong in South Vietnam were double the average number of the last two months in what allied military sources described as the enemy's "winter-spring campaign." The campaign is thought to be aimed at influencing the Paris peace talks and discrediting President Nixon's Vietnam policies.

### 2 Cambodian Villages Periled

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Jan. 7 (Reuters)—Two more Government positions in southern Cambodia were reported to be seriously threatened today and the battle continued for the battered market town of Tram Khnar.

Military headquarters in Phnom Penh said that the villages of Thnal Totoeng and Svay Prey about 30 miles south of the capital were under serious threat. The villages, on the main highway south, came under heavy attack last night.

Outside nearby Tram Khnar, Government forces fought against mixed Cambodian and Vietnamese Communist units in rice fields today. The town itself, badly damaged in four days of fighting, was reported quiet as Communist snipers withdrew from buildings around the burnt-out central market

See this file 13 May 74, SFChronicle, "AF Captain Decorated."

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