Kissing in Paris for Peace Talks; Fighting Steps Up

Hanoi and VC Double Attacks,

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Jan. 7—On the eve of the resumption of Vietnam peace talks in Paris both sides intensified their military operations.

More than 165 U.S. planes bombed North Vietnam south of the 20th parallel Sunday, the U.S. command reported. Another 249 American warplanes carried out raids against suspected Communist targets in South Vietnam.

For the fifth successive day, North Vietnamese and Vietcong attacks in South Vietnam were double the past two months average, in what military sources here described as the Communist command's winterspring campaign. They said it was aimed at influencing the peace talks and discrediting President Nixon's Vietnam policy.

The Saigon command reported 98 attacks across South Vietnam during the 24-hour period ending at 6 a.m. Sunday. Most of these were small, and three-fourths of them were carried out with rockets and mortars.

A communique from the South Vietnamese command said 140 enemy troops and 12 government soldiers were killed in more than half a

dozen clashes.

The sharpest fighting reportedly occurred in the Mekong Delta province of Kienhoa, 35 miles south of Saigon. Government militiamen and an unknown sized communist force fought, and spokesmen said 14 communists and six government troops were killed and another 23 militiamen were wounded.

In a broadcast monitored in Hong Kong, the New China News Agency said North Vietnamese Vice Minister of National Defense Tran Sam left Peking for

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home Sunday morning after a five-day visit.

POWs Said to Decry Bombing of N. Vietnam

Agence France-Presse

HONG KONG, Jan. 7— Three captured U.S. B-52 fliers in Hanoi have told their captors that they doubt the effectiveness of further U.S. attacks on North Vietnam, the North Vietnamese News Agency said Sunday.

The three were identified as Lt. Col. John H. Yuill, a B-52 pilot; Lt. Col. William W. Conlee, a B-52 electronic warfare navigator; and 1st Lt. Duane P. Varech, a B-52 navigator.

Col. Yuill was quoted as saying: "I was shot down south of Hanoi on Dec. 22. From past experiences and now from personal knowledge of the North Vietnamese, I seriously question the effectiveness of increased bombing of the North to achieve our stated goal of a quick and just cease-fire.

"From my present vantage point, the heavy bombing of the past week seems to have strengthened rather than weakened their resolve. I sincerely believe the only productive method of attaining our goal is to continue to proceed along the path of negotiations."

The agency quoted Col. Conlee as saying: "Too much suffering has happened already in this war. Continued bombing will only add to this misery. Our continued presence in this part of the world only prolongs the war and the detention of American captured and will result in more American deaths."

Lt. Varech was quoted as saying: "As most people, espe-

cially prisoners detained in the North Vietnam, want to return home, my hope is that the cease fire will come very soon. I do not feel this renewed bombing is making peace nearer."

Cambodian Guerrillas Said to Kill Villagers

PHNOM PENH, Jan. 7 (UPI)

—Khmer Rouge guerrillas killed 36 villagers captured in an attack Saturday on Thnal Totung, 18 miles west of Phnom Penh, a Cambodian command spokesman said Sunday.

Col. Am Rong also said two Cambodian soldiers were killed and eight wounded during an attack by Communist Cambodian forces on a government position at Svay Prey, 10 miles south of the Capital on Highway 2.