

U.S. Raids

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Hanoi's Aid to Bomb Victims

Hanoi

North Vietnam announced yesterday the financial measures it has taken to ease the plight of the many thousands of persons made homeless by the recent American bombings.

The worker's party newspaper *Nhan Dan* said that to each homeless family the government has decided to advance at least one month's rice rations, cash grants of between 110 and 245 dongs (four dongs roughly equal a dollar), blankets and bedding, dishes and construction material.

The number of homeless in Hanoi has never been officially announced. But the statistics given by Haiphong authorities for the port city—more than 5000 houses and buildings destroyed—can give an idea of the extensive damage here, considering that the raids on the capital were heavier.

CASH

Each victim will also receive 20 dongs worth of clothes, two dongs in cash for the Tet holiday at the beginning of February, and a special allocation of six to 12 dongs is to be given old persons and orphans with no family support.

Nhan Dan appealed to couples without children to adopt children whose parents were killed. For children who remain without parents, but who can continue to live together under the responsibility of an older brother or sister, the state will grant 10 dong per child.

Observers note that Hanoi residents spend an average of eight haos (cents) to one dong per day on food. Skilled workers made 60 to 80 dongs per month.

TALKS

The paper referred to the resumption of the secret Paris peace talks between Henry Kissinger, of the U.S. and Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam, only by quoting statements made by Tho on his arrival in Paris.

But the paper published numerous articles on the need to maintain vigilance because of the possibility of new bombings, and in particular stressed the problems of persons who lost their homes and belongings during the December raids, particularly in the Hanoi and Haiphong regions.

APPEAL

Nhan Dan did not appeal directly for foreign aid, but its call for solidarity among the Vietnamese is a manner of drawing the attention of world public opinion to the immensity of the new task faced by a country whose economy has been severely damaged by the raids and the war.

The paper said that the government and the party have already adopted measures, but emphasized the need for personal and local initiatives to aid the bombing victims.

Agence France-Press