

# Visit to a Hanoi Hospital

## Hanoi

About 400 seriously injured persons underwent surgery at Saint Paul's Hospital here at the end of December when the U.S. resumed bombing of North Vietnam, the hospital's deputy director, Dr. Pham Van Phuc, said yesterday.

He told a correspondent during a visit to the hospital that most of the injured suffered fractures and wounds as well as lung injuries caused by bomb blasts.

Saint Paul's Hospital, specializing in complex opera-

tions including plastic surgery, serious injuries, burns and difficult pediatric cases, was established by French colonial authorities about 40 years ago. It had about 50 beds at the time. Now it can care for 500 patients.

Phuc and the hospital's director, Dr. Thai Duy Bich, showed a bronze statue of the Apostle Paul in the hospital's courtyard, surrounded by underground shelters.

"We have not debaptized this hospital, in memory of those who brought good to the earth," said Bich. "For this reason we have also

preserved the name of Pasteur (the French pioneer of 19th century medical research) for one of the parks in the city."

The hospital, for which the French government has just decided to grant assistance worth \$400,000, has a radiology service and biological and microbiological laboratories, as well as a special intense care division for premature babies.

It has a staff of 500, including 100 students winding up their medical studies.

Bich and Phuc said nearly half of the patients were

evacuated after bombing of Hanoi resumed December 18. The staff remained on duty.

Some formed teams to visit and check the condition of the evacuated patients in the provinces.

*Agence France-Presse*