

U.S. Said to Bomb North Until Deadline

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Tuesday, Jan. 16 (UPI)—American planes reportedly continued bombing the southern panhandle area of North Vietnam yesterday right up to the time that President Nixon's order halting bombing and shelling went into effect.

Offensive operations against North Vietnam were halted at 11 P.M. (10 A.M. Monday, New York time). A few hours before the order was issued, a high-ranking United States military officer said air "operations over North Vietnam are continuing as they have been."

According to communiqués from the United States command, an average of 20 jet fighter-bombers and 12 waves of B-52 bombers, usually flying in three-plane formations, have struck at the southern part of North Vietnam every day this month.

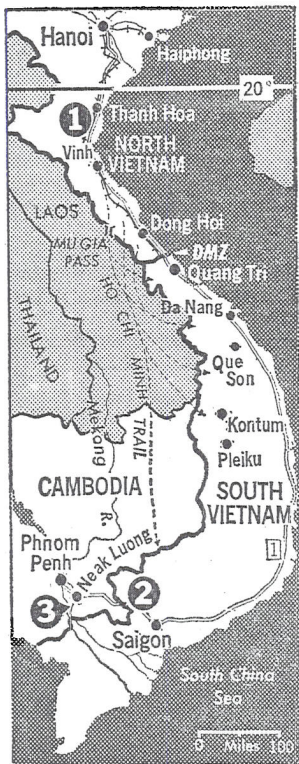
Panhandle Targets Struck

Shortly before the order to halt the bombing was announced, the United States command reported that 10 B-52 missions and 100 fighter-bombers had bombed targets in the North Vietnamese panhandle in the 24 hours ended at 8 A.M. The command said the fighter-bombers had knocked out 12 railroad and highway bridges between Thanh Hoa, just below the 20th parallel, and Dong Hoi, 45 miles north of the demilitarized zone.

North Vietnamese gunners shot down a Navy F-4 Phantom on Sunday, the command said, but its two crewmen bailed out and were rescued. The Phantom was struck just outside the port city of Thanh Hoa.

A communiqué on the final raids over North Vietnam flown on Monday was expected to be issued by the command later today.

Meanwhile, the air war con-



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Some of last air strikes over North Vietnam were near Thanh Hoa (1). In South, B-52's struck at foe's staging areas near Saigon (2). In Cambodia, Government units gained near Phnom Penh (3).

tinued unabated in South Vietnam. [The Vietcong demanded that the United States also halt its bombing of their strongholds in the South, The Associated Press reported.]

Sixteen formations of B-52s struck at what were believed to be Communist troop concentrations 35 miles northwest of Saigon. South Vietnamese mili-

tary sources said the Communists posed a threat to the capital.

The air strikes were believed to be among the heaviest B-52 attacks so close to the Capital since early 1970.

In other developments, Saigon spokesmen reported that Communist gunners fired 10 six-foot-long 122-mm. rockets into the Da Nang airbase early yesterday. They said one civilian was killed and five wounded by three rockets that landed outside the sprawling base complex. One American was reported hurt running for cover. Four American C-47 light transport planes were reported damaged in the barrage.

Heavy fighting reportedly continued yesterday for the second day around the embattled district capital of Que Son, 30 miles south of Da Nang.

Raid Near Hanoi Explained

SAIGON, Tuesday, Jan. 16 (AP)—United States sources acknowledged yesterday that American planes bombed an area southwest of Hanoi early this month after the halt in bombing in the area above the 20th Parallel but said that it was part of an unsuccessful attempt to rescue a downed flier.

The man is said to have wandered for 12 days near Hanoi and now is believed to be a prisoner. Repeated helicopter flights to rescue him met heavy ground fire, the sources said.

The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry charged at the time that American planes had bombed "many populated area" in Hoa Binh Province—which is where the flier was said to have been downed. The United States Command denied then that it had resumed bombing operations north of the 20th Parallel but refused to discuss reconnaissance or rescue operations.