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Halt in Raids on N. Vietnam Welcomed Around World

From News Dispatches

President Nixon's suspension of all offensive operations against North Vietnam was welcomed around the world yesterday.

In Sweden, where some of the most outspoken criticism of U.S. policy in Vietnam has been voiced, Foreign Minister Krister Wickman said: "We are very happy about the halt of the bombing."

A spokesman for Japanese Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka said: "We sincerely welcome the decision to completely halt the bombing of the North."

In West Germany, the Social Democratic party of Chan-

cellor Willy Brandt called the bombing halt "good news."

"I hope and I believe," said Foreign Minister Dagfinn Vaarvik of Norway, "that the United States and North Vietnam will agree to a peace treaty when the negotiations in Paris resume."

The Soviet press reacted with reserve to the news. The Communist Party newspaper Pravda ran the story on page 5.

East Europe's Communist newspapers welcomed the bombing halt but expressed doubts whether it really meant the end of the war.

"This is not the first time that bombing in Vietnam was

halted only to be resumed later with even greater brutality," said the Czechoslovak Communist Party newspaper Rude Pravo.

In Poland, the newspaper Zycie Warszawy said "President Nixon's decision does not mean the end of the war, but it certainly means that the chances for a final settlement have clearly increased."