

107 *Chen*  
*Noted By HAK*

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

INFORMATION

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

January 6, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER  
FROM: JOHN HOLDRIDGE *W.H.*  
SUBJECT: 25X1 [redacted] Accounts of the  
Bombing Impact

25X1

[redacted] with several reports [redacted]  
[redacted] on the impact of the December bombing in the Hanoi and  
Haiphong areas. These reports are summarized below: 25X1

25X1

-- The central areas of Hanoi and Haiphong seemed to have  
been largely spared, and damage in central Haiphong is not nearly  
as widespread as stories indicate. With the exception of the Bach Mai  
suburb, which was heavily struck, probably causing high civilian  
casualties, and occasional mistakes (e.g., a bomb falling behind the  
Cuban Embassy) bombing in the Hanoi area has been accurately directed  
at strategic targets. To a very considerable degree, the raids have  
disrupted life and work in Hanoi, and government offices are being  
manned only by skeleton staffs.

[redacted]

-- Evacuations have been carried out in an orderly fashion and  
those remaining in Hanoi continue to carry out their individual tasks  
and appear to be calm and stoic. (Another report described some  
instances of panic among those being evacuated.)

-- As of December 26, the flow of vehicles entering Hanoi had  
been reduced by four-fifths. The bombing appears to have been very  
effective in decreasing the North Vietnamese military potential.

-- The French Delegation General in Hanoi estimated on  
December 23 that between 900 and 3,000 had been killed by bombing  
in Hanoi. (Hanoi reported on January 4, that 1,318 civilians had

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been killed in the Hanoi areas from December 18 to 29, and this figure may well be exaggerated.) Immediately after the bombing began on December 18, authorities urged people to evacuate Hanoi. By December 22, three out of five shops on one main street were closed and there were unusually long queues at food outlets in various parts of the city. By December 29, the population of Hanoi had decreased considerably.

-- On December 21, it was observed that the Party headquarters building near the Cuban Embassy had sustained some window blast damage, and files and papers were being moved out of the building to trucks.

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