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U.S. STEPS UP WAR ACTS AGAINST DRVN

THE U.S. aggressors last month increased their encroachments upon the sovereignty and threats against the security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and perpetrated more crimes against her people.

In its communique dated January 4 in this connection, the DRVN Commission for Investigation of U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam reported:

In December 1968, American manned and unmanned planes made nearly 900 sorties and conducted nearly 700 reconnaissance flights over 24 provinces and towns of North Viet Nam which means nearly 300 sorties and nearly 200 flights more than in November.

According to initial figures, 650 reconnaissance missions were flown in the areas between the 17th and 19th parallels, namely 40 in Nghe An province, 160 in Ha Tinh province, 240 in Quang Binh province, and 210 in Vinh Linh area.

SR71 planes violated the airspace of Hanoi 7 times

and Hai Phong 8 times.

The communique further denounced U.S. aerial bombing and strafing of many heavily populated areas in the DRVN. For instance, on December 9, 24 and 27 U.S. aircraft fired *Shrike* rockets on 3 villages of Nghi Loc district, Nghe An; on December 7, 2 F4s dropped 4 CBUs on 2 hamlets in Ha Tinh province, killing 10 peasants then working on the ricefields. On December 19, American planes fired 2 rockets on a village of the same province.

In Quang Binh province, U.S. planes on 30 occasions rained explosive, blast and steel-pellet bombs on 20 heavily populated villages on December 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 20.

On December 7, 4 F4s unleashed 8 explosive and blast bombs on Nghia Ninh village, killing 13 people mostly old folks, women and children, and reducing to ashes 15 houses.

Two days later, 2 other F4s dropped 4 explosive and steel-pellet bombs on Canh

Duong village, killing 15 people in the ricefields.

On December 20, 2 planes of the same type scattered 8 steel-pellet bombs on a production team in Son Trach village, seriously wounding 3 people.

Besides, in the first four days of December, American planes on 7 occasions poured blast and steel-pellet bombs on a farm and 4 hamlets.

The communique further said that on December 3, 4, 5 and 13, warships of the 7th Fleet and artillery based in the southern part of the Demilitarized zone slammed 130 shells on Vinh Linh.

The *New Jersey* on December 3 and 5 fired 12 406-mm shells on Vinh Son village in the northern part of the DMZ, causing serious losses to the people.

The communique stressed that the above acts of war against the DRVN constitute serious provocations against the Vietnamese people as well as the world's peoples as a whole, and the progressive people in the United States as well.