

# DETROIT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT RECORDS

BOX 15 OF 16

FOLDER 26

VIETNAM ANIT WAR FLYER

# BACH MAI HOSPITAL



On December 19th and 22nd, Bach Mai Hospital in Hanoi was bombed by U.S. B-52s. The hospital had previously been damaged by U.S. bombs on June 27, 1972. In this most recent bombing, Bach Mai, the largest hospital in all of North Vietnam, was completely destroyed.

The Bach Mai Hospital was "blown to smithereens, blown to bits, completely destroyed, and hit more than once on successive days," according to Brig. Gen. (ret.) Telford Taylor, former prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trial who is now professor of law at Columbia University. Mr. Taylor visited the hospital site the morning after the intensive bombing ( N.Y. Times, 12/31/72).

On October 26, 1972, Presidential Advisor Henry Kissinger announced to the world that "Peace is at Hand." On December 16th, Henry Kissinger announced that the peace talks had ended with no agreement. Two days later, President Nixon ordered round-the-clock saturation bombing raids against Hanoi and Haiphong for the first time in the history of the Indochina war. On December 22nd, many Americans were shocked to hear reports that the largest civilian hospital in all of North Vietnam, Bach Mai, was bombed and completely destroyed.

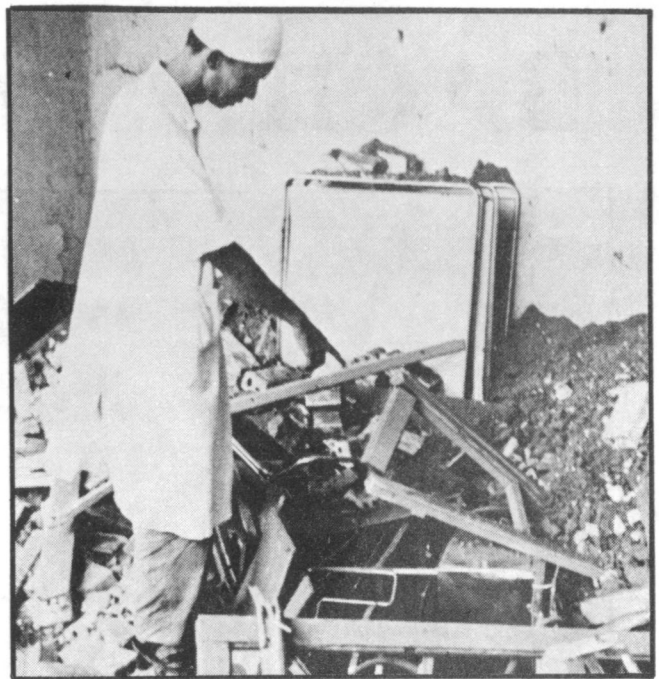
The immediate response of the U.S. government to the bombing of Bach Mai Hospital came from Pentagon spokesman, Jerry Friedheim, who said: "We have not struck any large 1000-bed civilian hospital. We have no information that indicated that at all" ( *Boston Globe* , 12/28/72).

## EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

**There is now conclusive evidence that Bach Mai Hospital was not only struck by U.S. B-52 bombers, but also, that the hospital was completely razed to the ground by these bombing attacks:**

— Brig. Gen. (ret.) Telford Taylor, who traveled to Hanoi to deliver Christmas letters to Prisoners of War (POWs) from their families, sent the following dispatch to the *New York Times* on the morning he visited the hospital site: "Early this morning, the large Bach Mai Hospital was destroyed. The hospital grounds were torn with huge fresh craters and the buildings that escaped hits were shattered by blasts.

"Viewed a few hours later, the hospital remains were a terrible scene, with rescue workers carrying patients piggy-back, cranes and bulldozers and people using only their hands desperately clearing debris to reach victims said to be still buried in the rubble, and the frantic hospital director running from one building to another." ( *N.Y. Times*, 12/25/72)



Destruction of Bach Mai from June 27th raid

— Other foreign journalists' eyewitness reports from Hanoi also immediately contradicted the denial by the U.S. government.

a) "The fact is that the 900-bed hospital . . . was not only damaged but was razed by several giant bombs" ( *Agence France Press* reporter Jean Leclerc Du Sablaon reporting in *N.Y. Times* 12/30/72)

b) Japanese television footage taken at the ruins of Bach Mai Hospital and widely aired in the United States shows not one of the 30 buildings of the hospital complex still standing intact. The hospital complex covers an area of more than 34 acres — so vast an area that only B-52 carpet bombing could have been responsible for such tremendous damage.

## LARGEST HANOI HOSPITAL

The Bach Mai Hospital, built by the French in 1932, was the largest and most important general teaching and research hospital in all of Vietnam with a bed capacity of 1150, comparable in role to the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston or the Stanford Medical Center in California.

## BACH MAI NOT ONLY HOSPITAL DESTROYED

The Christmas week destruction of Bach Mai Hospital was not an isolated attack on North Vietnamese medical facilities. Many American newspapers including the *New York Times* and *Boston Globe* reported on December 28, 1972 that no fewer than six medical installations were hit by U.S. bombs during the previous 10 days, including the Tubercular Diseases Hospital in Bach Thai province.

Many other hospitals in North Vietnam have been the targets of U.S. air raids prior to the Christmas, 1972 period. On April 27, 1972, the 300-bed Thanh Hoa Provincial Hospital was struck by 35 demolition and anti-personnel bombs, killing 6 doctors and 3 patients. On May 10 and June 27, 1972, the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Hospital in Hanoi was extensively bombed. In all, 56 hospitals and clinics in North Vietnam were destroyed in part or completely from April, 1972 to October, 1972 alone.

The most tragic are those hospitals which were rebuilt after the bombing halt in 1968. The world famous Quynh Lap Leprosarium, with over 2000 beds was bombed 39 times in one month during the Johnson years. It was rebuilt in decentralized fashion to provide protection from any future bombings, but all of the 50 buildings were destroyed in seven air raids during April and May of 1972. The Vietnamese-Czechoslovakian Hospital in Haiphong was levelled under Johnson. Its reconstruction was completed in February, 1972. Some 60 days later, on April 16, 1972, it was bombed in the first of several attacks.

Bach Mai had extensive clinical laboratories and all the auxiliary services required to run a major teaching and research hospital. The hospital was clearly defined and a well-known landmark readily visible from the ground or from the air.

The patients of Bach Mai were entirely civilian. Patients came to Bach Mai from all over North Vietnam. Those patients referred to Bach Mai were only the patients with the most complex medical problems. Like all teaching hospitals in the United States, it was subdivided according to medical specialty and type of disease. Thus there were 350 beds for internal medicine, 100 beds for infectious disease, 100 beds for neurology and 60 beds for psychiatry. In addition, there were also 110 beds in the large pediatric wing and 100 for patients wounded during bombing attacks.

The hospital was devoted to clinical medicine, teaching and research. There were more than 200 full-time positions on the staff including a number of professors and scientists of the medical faculty. Most of these were trained in Hanoi during the past 25 years. About 800 medical students and residents were in training at the hospital. It also housed a number of research laboratories, notably in hematology and congenital heart disease.

At the time of this most recent bombing of Bach Mai, there is estimated to have been about 2000 doctors, nurses, workers, and patients at the hospital. Bach Mai, itself, was not destroyed until the fourth day of this most intensive bombing in the history of the war after the patient capacity was filled to overflowing. The bombing killed 23 doctors and nurses, 2 children and an unknown number of patients. All of the medical equipment and supplies were destroyed including 1500 quarts of blood plasma from the Bach Mai transfusion center.

## BOMBING: ROAD TO PEACE?

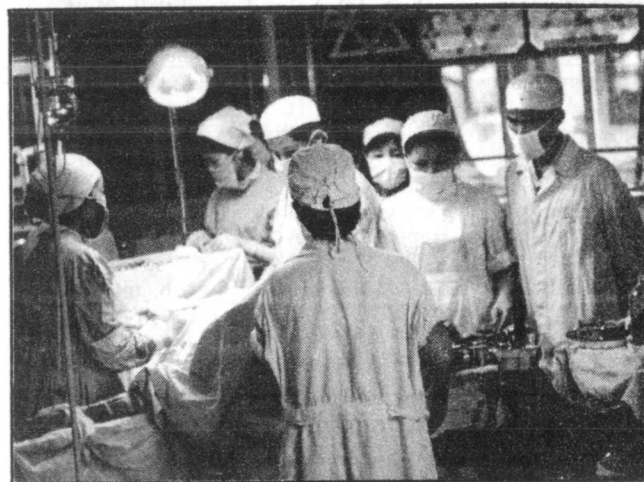
*Millions of us did not support the Christmas bombing of North Vietnam. The draft peace agreement announced by Henry Kissinger on October 26th offers a way to peace. Against all historical precedent and even advice from his own top government officials, President Nixon continues to use a massive armada of B-52 bombers in an attempt to force the Vietnamese to make concessions. President Nixon has reneged on his promise made in an October 20th telegram to Pham Van Dong, the premier of North Vietnam, that he would accept the provisions of the 9-Point Peace Agreement (N.Y. Times, 11/5/72). The massive bombing raids have not brought us any closer to peace. If the President believes that he can use bombing to coerce the Vietnamese into surrender he has not paid attention to either the past analysis revealed in the government's own study, the Pentagon Papers, or current descriptions of the mood in Hanoi:*

— A special government study of the bombing of North Vietnam ordered by Secretary of Defense, McNamara, in 1965 concluded: "The bombing clearly strengthens popular support of the regime by engendering patriotic and nationalistic enthusiasm to resist the attacks." (*Pentagon Papers*, vol. IV, pg. 119)

— According to an Agence France Presse report filed by a Hanoi-based correspondent we find that "the people are also showing signs of aggressiveness and readiness to fight that were not so noticeable previously . . . The same sentiment, if in a more restrained language is heard in political circles: 'After thirty years of combat, struggles, and sacrifices, we are not going to bend the knee now,' is one comment." (*N.Y. Times*, 12/30/72)

— According to a top State Department official " . . . all reason and logic and history are against the North Vietnamese making substantive concessions because of the bombing." (*Time*, 1/8/73)

As long as President Nixon continues to deny all historical precedents and the will of the American people, there is a good possibility that there will be more Bach Mais bombed and more people killed and wounded and more U.S. pilots captured or missing-in-action.



Operating room in Bach Mai before Christmas

## OUR HOPES BETRAYED

*"I have never voted in a Presidential election before and since they assured us of peace this time, I registered and made a special effort to get out this time to vote because I thought that if we got President Nixon in, peace would be assured. If they had gone ahead and signed the treaty as promised, my husband would be alive today with me and my children. I think too many men have died now in Vietnam — we've lost so many good men — fathers and sons. I just hope no more have to die over there . . . he promised it twice and still no peace. You begin to wonder after a while, I hope it's soon."* (Mrs. Molly Taylor, whose husband Louis was killed on Dec. 6, 1972 in South Vietnam as recorded on NBC-TV 12/17/72)

We thought that truly this Christmas would be a time for acts of peace. Instead, our president decided that he should continue the acts of war. All our hopes have been betrayed. Now we must speak for ourselves and not allow our government to continue to speak with death and destruction.

# BACH MAI HOSPITAL RELIEF FUND

On Tuesday, January 2nd at a Washington, D.C. press conference, Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general, Bishop John Wesley Lord, Methodist Bishop, Dr. Charles Janeway, Harvard Professor of Pediatrics, Pat Simon, Gold Star Mother and Rev. Michael Allen, Assoc. Dean of Yale Divinity School and recently returned from Hanoi with Telford Taylor, announced a nationwide drive to rebuild Bach Mai Hospital. The campaign will attempt to involve as broad a spectrum of the American people as possible, with individuals, organizations, professional societies, universities and church bodies who have the confidence of large numbers of Americans and the capacity to involve them in a successful campaign. In launching the campaign, Ramsey Clark announced a goal of \$3 million. In the first week of the fund's operation, \$300,000 had been collected from the American public.

**WHO SPONSORS THE FUND?** The Bach Mai Hospital Emergency Relief Fund was initiated and is co-sponsored by Medical Aid for Indochina. This organization has been operating for more than a year and in that period of time has sent over \$100,000 worth of medical supplies and equipment to the people of Indochina through the Red Cross Societies of North Vietnam and those areas of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia being bombed by the United States. In addition to the above-named individuals and many others, the following people have sponsored the Bach Mai Hospital Emergency Relief Fund: Bishop Thomas Gumbelton, Roman Catholic Bishop of Detroit, Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr., Episcopal Bishop of New York City, Dr. Charles Mayo, III, Moe Foner, Exec. Sec. Local 1199, Hospital and Drug Workers Union, Arthur Miller, playwright, Salvador Luria, M.D., and Albert Szent-Gyorgi, M.D. (Nobel Prize winners), and Congressional Representatives: Phil Burton, Calif., Pete McCloskey, Calif., Bella Abzug, New York, and Robert F. Drinan, Mass.; Noan Chomsky, Prof. of Linguistics MIT, Howard Zinn, Prof. of History, Boston University, and I. F. Stone, journalist.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BACH MAI HOSPITAL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND?** To collect the necessary funds to rebuild Bach Mai Hospital and to re-equip Bach Mai with the supplies necessary for it to carry on its medical services.

**PEOPLE WILL SAY, HOW CAN YOU BUILD A HOSPITAL WHILE THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE BOMBING EXISTS?** If the 9-Point Peace Agreement is signed and U.S.

bombers withdrawn, then the actual reconstruction of the hospital can take place immediately. If they are not signed, then some of the \$3 million will be used to replace needed medical supplies and equipment destroyed by the Christmas bombing raids. The money collected in the U.S. will be forwarded to the Medical Aid for Indochina Committee — earmarked for Bach Mai Hospital. This money will then be used to purchase the needed medical supplies and equipment. This equipment will then be flown or shipped to Hanoi where it will be turned over to the official representatives of the Red Cross of Vietnam. All monies raised will go solely to replace Bach Mai Hospital and the urgently needed medical equipment and supplies.

**PEOPLE WILL ASK, IS THIS LEGAL?** While the existing laws are ambiguous, we are guided by the International Red Cross treaty. This treaty states that no member nation may interfere with the shipment of medical supplies to any other member nation for any reason whatsoever. In announcing the formation of the fund, Ramsey Clark declared that he knew of no *just* law that would prohibit an effort of this nature.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** The Bach Mai Hospital Fund needs thousands of people to not only give money but also to:

1. help distribute this leaflet door-to-door and on the street corners, talking with people and helping explain why the war continues and asking for their help in rebuilding Bach Mai Hospital (we have collection cans)
2. set up informal discussions with your neighbors and in your associations and groups (we have films, slide shows, and background literature)
3. bring speakers into your community, church, school and organization to help explain the recent acts of the U.S. Government and to help in money raising to rebuild Bach Mai Hospital
4. ask your church group, labor group, civic association, veterans organization, fellow workers and city councils to appropriate funds to go for the reconstruction and equipping of Bach Mai Hospital
5. on campuses and universities, the institution can help contribute to Bach Mai. In addition, fasts, blood drives, and door-to-door solicitation can help raise money while pushing for an end to the war.

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**IN VIETNAMESE, BACH MAI MEANS WHITE BLOSSOM. LET US GUARANTEE THAT THE WHITE BLOSSOM OF BACH MAI FLOWERS ONCE AGAIN.**

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed check made out to Bach Mai Hospital Emergency Relief Fund.  
 I want to organize in my community

For more copies information and contributions, write:  
Medical Aid for Indochina, 140 Sixth St., Cambridge  
Mass. 02142; (617) 492-0205

Local contact: