But the degree to which it is practiced showed most glaringly when we saw a survival kit issued to all pilots. This particular kit had food, water, poison pellets, flares and a manual put out by the U.S. Naval Intelligence. This phrase book was translated into nine languages and entitled "Pointee Talkee." What are some of the phrases that Naval Intelligence feel will help a pilot who has been shot down? "Will you accept gold? Where is the nearest telephone? Where are the friendly guerrillas? My government will reward you." The whole idea of a reward and a bribe as an aid to a pilot may seem strange but it is just an extension of the idea that anyone can be bought and everyone has a price. Not so in North Vietnam.

The main policy of the Government since the bombing began is to keep life as normal as possible. In Hanoi we found no curfew or martial law even though the whole city was ringed with anti-aircraft guns and the population was armed with rifles. A visit to a university revealed students studying in trenches and training to defend the school against enemy attack. We were struck most of all by the warmth, informality, and the tremendous morale and spirit of all the people regardless of their occupation or position.

The effects of the bombings was not seen until we travelled into the provinces. The roads are closed during the day because of raids but at night the traffic is moving fast. We drove south in camouflage jeeps for eight solid hours and for eight hours passed military convoys. This may give you some indication of the amount of arms and weapons now in the possession of the DRV. During the course of the trip we witnessed a tuberculosis center of thirty buildings that had red crosses clearly marked on each roof. This hospital was levelled in four raids. The Vietnamese feel that the U.S. planes are purposely bombing hospitals in order to terrorize the population. Consequently, they have decentralized all medical facilities and evacuated all large hospitals. We interviewed some of the victims of the bombings. These included several children who had had their legs shot off by strafing planes. We also saw a woman who was pregnant and paralyzed from the waist down due to strafing. It is apparent that the U.S. regards any moving object as a military installation subject to attack.

The peasants in Thanh Hoa province were quite interested in the struggles taking place in the U.S. around peace and in particular the civil rights movement. They indicated that they viewed their struggle as an extension of the Negroes struggle for freedom and self-determination. The same forces that prevented free elections in Vietnam are preventing free elections in Mississippi and other southern states. One of translators mentioned how the women were impressed with my dark skin. He said that a dark skin was symbolic of a hard worker and that women looked for this quality in all men. I asked one girl what else she looked for in a man and her reply was "a fighting spirit for our country." The joining of the peace and civil rights movement was of paramount importance in the eyes of the DRV. They saw how the Johnson Administration sends thousands of troops to southeast Asia to oppress people and yet would not send one soldier to suppress the racists in southeast Ga. They further felt that many Negroes facing the draft would begin to see the hypocrisy in Johnson's statements of "bringing democracy to the Vietnamese" when democracy doesn't exist in the U.S.

On our return to Hanoi we had our most important meeting. This was with the Premier of North Vietnam Pham Van Dong. He asked us to make clear to the American people the North Vietnamese position on negotiations. He said that his government would consider negotiations if the U.S. would accept "in principle" the four points the DRV presented last April for ending the war. The four points include the withdrawal of all U.S. troops and bases, recognition of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam as the representative of the people of the South, and settlement of the affairs of the South according to the program of the NLF and the principles of the 1954 Geneva agreement. He stressed the point that Vietnam was one country with a common language and history and that the U.S. was interfering in the internal affairs of this country. We asked him how many DRV troops had been sent south to assist the NLF. He stated that his government would only send in regular troops if the Liberation Front asked for them and that when that call comes everyone will know about it. It was pointed out to us that the Youth Federation of North Vietnam began a campaign for volunteers to go south and in two weeks had 2.5 million people signed up. The volunteers are ready and waiting for the call to assist their brothers in the south against the U.S.