

Two Truce Helicopters Shot at in VC Area

SAIGON, May 2 (AP)—Two peacekeeping helicopters were fired at over Vietcong-held territory Wednesday, generating charges that the Communists have failed to guarantee security and adequate working conditions for the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

The helicopters were not hit.

But an exchange of civilian prisoners between the Saigon government and the Vietcong was suspended and some members of the four-nation peacekeeping commission proposed closing down three field observation sites.

Vietcong communique on the helicopter incident acknowledged that Communist forces fired on an aircraft below the Demilitarized Zone in the same area that the two peacekeeping helicopters ran into fire. But the communique said the Vietcong target was an American reconnaissance aircraft flying through a safety corridor set aside for the peacekeeping helicopters.

There was no immediate comment from U.S. officials, who have, however, acknowledged American reconnaissance flights over South Vietnam since the cease-fire went into effect Jan. 28. ICCS ground observers and newsmen on the scene made no mention of seeing any American reconnaissance plane.

Ambassador Michel Gauvin, chairman of the Canadian delegation to the peacekeeping commission, called the incident "deplorable." "This settles it," said an Indonesian commission delegate. "It's just a matter of time until there is a major disaster."

The helicopters, each with two-man American civilian crews under a commission contract with Air America, returned to Quangtri City about five minutes after takeoff.

They were on their way to pick up one of two commission helicopters that was forced

down west of Quangtri City in a shooting incident April 7 and the survivors of that crash who had returned to inspect the wreckage. Nine persons were killed in the earlier crash, including a Canadian, an Indonesian and two Hungarian members of the commission; two American pilots; a Filipino crewman, and two Vietcong liaison officers.

ICCS sources said the commission chairman, Ambassador Bogdan Wasilewski of Poland, suspended flights and highway movements to a half-dozen civilian prisoner release points because the Vietcong refused to guarantee a wide enough air corridor and adequate security on the ground. The planned release of several hundred prisoners was canceled because no international observers were on the scene.

Meanwhile in Cambodia, American bombers continued their attacks, striking at about 500 guerrillas entrenched on the bank of the Mekong River opposite the capital of Phnom Penh.

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