

ZZ

RNR 162 NOBEL -FRANCE

PARIS, OCT. 16, REUTER -- A SPOKESMAN FOR THE VIET CON DELEGATION TO THE PARIS PEACE TALKS SAID TODAY THAT THE AWARD OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO HANOI PEACE NEGOTIATOR LE DUC THO WAS WELL DESERVED, BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER THIS WAS THE CASE FOR U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER.

THE SPOKESMAN, LY VAN SAU, TOLD REUTER : "WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT MR. LE DUC THO HAS BEEN AWAR ED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE. IT IS WEL' DESERVED. BUT FOR DR. KISSINGER, I WONDER..."

THE SAIGON AND NORTH VIETNAM DELEGATIONS HERE DECLINED IMMEDIATE COMMENT.

NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT CAME FROM FRENCH OFFICIALS.

BUT THE FRENCH STATE RADIO FRANCE-INTER SAID TONIGHT:

"THIS IS A BIG SURPRISE TO GIVE THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE TIME WHEN THE UNITED STATES IS ENGAGED IN WHAT MAY BE A REAL ESCALATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ENOUGH TO CAUSE SURPRISE."

REUTER LFT/MI 1543

ZZ

RNR 163

MIDEAST -- TRAINING

TEL AVIV, OCT. 16, REUTER -- ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES SAID TODAY THAT A CAPTURED EGYPTIAN HELICOPTER PILOT HAD ADMITTED RECEIVING HIS FLIGHT TRAINING IN FRANCE AFTER BEING FURNISHED WITH LIBYAN IDENTITY PAPERS.

THE SOURCES ALSO QUOTED THE PILOT AS SAYING SEVERAL OF HIS FRIENDS WHO HAD ALSO BEEN PROVIDED WITH LIBYAN IDENTITY PAPERS, HAD BEEN TRAINED IN FRANCE ON MIRAGE AIRCRAFT.

THE SOURCES IDENTIFIED THE HELICOPTER PILOT AS LT. COL. SAAD AHMED ZAHNAN, WHO WAS TAKEN PRISONER LAST SUNDAY.

DESPITE ISRAELI COMPLAINTS IN RECENT YEARS FRANCE HAS DENIED THAT ANY EGYPTIAN PILOTS WERE TRAINED TO FLY AIRCRAFT SUPPLIED BY FRANCE TO LIBYA.

THE SOURCES SAID THE COLONEL SAID HE HAD FLOWN TO LIBYA WITH TWO OTHER EGYPTIAN PILOTS AND A NUMBER OF EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT TECHNICIANS IN AUGUST 1970.

HE SAID E HAD BEEN PROVIDED WITH LIBYAN IDENTITY PAPERS IN THE NAME OF ALI ALQUADIQI ALKADIKI AND HAD BEEN GIVEN A COVER STORY FOR HIS LIFE PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL IN FRANCE.

HE SAID HIS GROUP HAD BEEN JOINED IN LIBYA BY A GROUP OF LIBYAN PILOTS AND TECHNICIANS AND THEY HAD THEN FLOWN TOGETHER TO PARIS AND THEN TO MARIGNANE, WHERE THEY WERE PUT UP AT A HOTEL, WITH THE LIBYAN EMBASSY PAYING THE BILL.

REUTER JCK/MIT 1547