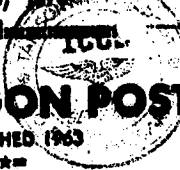


Monday, April 23, 1975

NON-IDENTIFIED



THE SAIGON POST

ESTABLISHED 1963

Publisher & Editor: **BUI PHUONG THE**
Business Manager: **Mrs VU THI KIM KHUE**

Editorial and Advertising offices at
338, TRAN HUNG DAO SAIGON - Tel 90888
Cable Address: SAPOST

PRINTED AT 78 NUTHEM QUANG THIEP, SAIGON

Post Data

Why Not Now?

By QUANG MINH

New Hanoi is turning upon the Canadian component of the ICCS for speaking out the truth about the Communist downing of an ICCS helicopter that claimed nine lives.

For stating the fact that chopper was shot down by a party that is not either of the two South Vietnamese parties and which is not supposed to be in South Vietnam, in contravention of the Paris agreement, Canada's Michael Gevin is censured by Quan Doi Nhan Dan, a Hanoi mouthpiece, for alleged unscrupulous statements.

Then, the Communists also claim that the ill-fated chopper had strayed away from the corridor it was supposed to follow to its destination, hence, the accident happened.

It is clear, isn't it, from the above statements of the Communist themselves, that they admit having shot down the chopper?

They had to admit it because a second accompanying chopper had a full load of witnesses who saw the ill-fated chopper hit with a missile and who themselves were fired upon.

So, the next point at issue is, did the ill-fated chopper actually stray from the corridor to the extent that it was mistaken for an aggressor?

Again, the captor-load of witnesses, particularly the crew, testified to the contrary, pointing out emphatically that they were being **GUIDED TO THEIR DESTINATION BY A COMMUNIST ELEMENT PRECISELY ACCOMPANYING THEM TO THEIR DESTINATION.** Besides, the ill-fated helicopter was plainly marked **ICCS.**

The Communist knew that they shot down the chopper while it was well within the corridor. Why? Because they tried to deceive the crew of the second chopper, who were supposed to go to the site of the downing,

probably that they would lose their bearings and will be unable to testify more credibly about directions.

Gevin is right to insist on pursuing the probe of the downing of the ICCS chopper. To give up now and pack up for home would be backing down before the hammer tactics of the Communists.

It is true the Communists have threatened to leave the ICCS if, after the 30-day suspension of their peacekeeping mission they are not allowed to return. It would be a pity because as far as they had been the ones who had always the guide line up to the Communists.

With the many nations who asked Canada to stay after the first 30-day period of peace, realized and it would be a severe let-down if they did abandon the job.

All this brings us back to the continued unauthorized presence of North Vietnamese regulars of South Vietnamese territory—the most flagrant and unconscionable violation of the Paris agreement. As long as these NVA regulars remain on RVN territory, peace will be nebulous in all of Indochina.

Both Presidents Nixon and Thieu knew too well that this is keeping the cigarette burning to say the least and has stymied the Paris talks between the two Vietnamese parties, just as it is responsible for the turmoil in Cambodia and for prolonging the twilight war in Laos.

Nixon promised vigorous actions against ceasefire violations. Maybe it is time for him to show just what kind of vigorous action he was talking about. He has shown, in the case of the POW exchange, that he can and will do something if the Communists crossed him. Why not now?

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: 29-Oct-2009