



STATINTL

U.S. Intervened Here For Anti-Red Flier



POPE

By VERNE O. WILLIAMS
Reporter of The Miami News

A high-level Washington official secretly intervened in a criminal court case here two weeks ago to aid Allan Lawrence Pope, the South Dade pilot who spent four years in an Indonesian prison for flying with anti-Communist rebels.

The judge, prosecutor and complaining witnesses were all told in hushed tones that it "wouldn't be in the national interest" to jail Pope, The Miami News learned yesterday.

"They all but came out and said he was a CIA man," recalls one participant.

State Attorney Richard Gerstein refused to confirm or deny that his office received the calls from Washington.

"I have absolutely no comment," he said.

Pope, a lean and unsmiling man, faced charges of ag-

gravated assault as the result of "capturing" six quail hunters at gunpoint for alleged trespass on his mother's South Dade land.

The hunters said they were on adjoining property and complained of brutal "battlefield tactics" by Pope. Richard Clark, brother of Miami City Commissioner Steve Clark, charged that the husky flier knocked him down with a gun butt, stamped in a rib and kicked him in the groin.

Subsequently, a reliable source relates, the Clarks were approached by Assistant State Attorney Arthur Huttoe, aide to Gerstein. Huttoe told them of the Washington calls and asked them to drop criminal charges.

Dick Clark at first refused emphatically, but after a confirmation of the high-level plea of "national interest," agreed to a compromise on a lesser charge and probation. He has since filed a \$5,000 civil damage suit against Pope for his injuries.

In court before Judge Jack Falk, Pope pleaded "nolo contendere," or no defense, to simple assault and battery.

Huttoe recommended probation. It was also pointed out that Pope "travels a lot in his work" and the requirement of reporting in during his two years probation was waived.

The 35-year-old Pope, whose last address was c-o Southern Air Transport, Tachikawa Air Base, Japan, walked out of court and vanished.

His mother, widow of a pioneer South Dade grower, gave a firm "no comment" to inquires for him yesterday at her home, on Eureka Drive near Newton Road.

If the persuasive story told local officials is true, she has a special letter from a President of the United States commending her son, Allan, as an unsung "national hero."