

Post 4/28/67

U.S. Probes Strafed Ship Allegation

LONDON, April 27 (AP)—
The United States is urgently investigating the reported attack on an American aircraft on a British ship in Haiphong Harbor Tuesday, a Foreign Office spokesman said today.

He added that the probe by the State Department is taking place at Britain's request. [In Washington State Department press officer Robert J. McCloshey acknowledged the investigation was under way.]

The 2739-ton cargo vessel Dartford was riddled with bullets fired by a U. S. Air Force jet, according to press reports quoting a North Vietnamese news agency.

A spokesman for the Peninsular Shipping Co., in Hong Kong, owners of the vessel, said six Chinese crewmen were injured. He declined to say who had chartered the vessel, or what cargo she was carrying. [McCloshey said the vessel was on charter to Communist China.]

The news agencies reported these developments elsewhere:

• In New York, United Nations Secretary General U Thant said he agreed with the British historian Arnold Toynbee "that nationalism, not communism, is the ideology animating the resistance movement in Vietnam against a succession of foreign powers through the years. The war cannot be brought to an end until this fundamental fact is recognized." He spoke at the inaugural convocation of the Pacem in Terris Institute at Manhattan College.

• Communist North Korea's Foreign Ministry condemned U.S. air raids on the Hanoi-Haiphong areas and warned the Communist nations "cannot remain mere onlookers."

• Japanese Premier Eisaku Sato said the opposing sides in Vietnam "lacked calmness" and were thus unable to enter negotiations now. He said he would discuss the possibility of peace talks with U Thant when he visits Japan on June 18.