

NYTimes
**Hanoi Says Communists Raided
Saigon Airport With U.S. Planes**

MAY 9 1975

HONG KONG, May 8 (Reu-
ters — North Vietnam made
public an account today of
what it described as one of the
South Vietnamese Communists'
boldest exploits in the last
days of the Vietnam war — the
bombing of Saigon's Tan Son
Nhut airport by captured Unit-
ed States built planes.

On the day of the raid, April
28, there were conflicting re-
ports about the bombing of the
airport. The attack coincided
with the installation of Presi-
dent Duong Van Minh and
aroused speculation in some
quarters that "hawk" generals
were warning him against ca-
pitulating to the Communists.

Former Premier Nguyen Cao
Ky said he believed the planes
had been captured at Da Nang
and were flown by Communist

pilots during the Tan Son Nhut
raid.

The North Vietnamese press
account said that when Sai-
gon's forces collapsed in the
north and the Central High-
lands in March, the Commu-
nists captured five United
States-built A-37 fighter-bomb-
ers.

The Communists trained pi-
lots to fly the planes and, in
the last days of the war they
flew to attack Tan Son Nhut.

When they arrived over the
base, the control tower opera-
tors became confused and
asked the A-37's for identifica-
tion, the report said.

Not until the planes had
dropped their first bombs did
the tower operators realize the
airport was under attack.

The surrender of the South
Vietnamese government came
just two days after the raid.