

7 Aug 74

MOTHER CRITICIZES INDIA ON SON'S CASE

LEONIA, N.Y., Aug 6 (UPI)—
A Leonia widow whose son
and another man are on a
hunger strike in a jail in India
after being held for 16 months
on espionage allegations says
the case against her son is
based on "vague rumors."

Mrs. Ruth K. Fletcher, whose
son, Anthony Fletcher, 30, and
Richard W. Harcos, 27, another
American, have been jailed in
Calcutte since their arrest
April 26, 1973, said today that
the prosecution's case against
her son has been developed in
closed court.

"Nobody really knows what
kind of case the prosecution
has developed — it's all be
held in secret," Mrs. Fletcher
said at her home here. She
characterized the allegations,
as based on "vague rumors."

Both men have been on a
diet of fruit juice since June
17 to press the Indian Govern-
ment to expedite the case.

The case involves allegations
that the two men were spies.
Both deny the spying allega-
tions and lawyers in the case
say that they were seeking
to smuggle out narcotics.