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Catholic Officials Deny Priests Were Crucified

PLEIKU, South Vietnam, May 12 (Reuters)—Roman Catholic officials yesterday denied as unfounded a report by a senior United States official that two French missionaries had been crucified by North Vietnamese troops.

The officials said they had no reason to believe that any of the four French priests behind Communist lines had been harmed.

Wednesday night John Paul Vann, senior American adviser in the Central Highland, said at a news conference that according to refugees two of the priests had been crucified.

The priests, at a village 30 miles north of Kontum City, chose to stay when the Communists arrived late last month.