

## McCloskey Says U.S. Embassy 'Acquiesced' in Saigon Arrests

NYTimes By JAMES M. MARKHAM MAR 1 1975

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Feb. 28—Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr. said today that the United States Embassy here appeared to have adopted a policy of "tacit acquiescence" in the arrest of political prisoners by the Saigon Government.

Mr. McCloskey, a California Republican who is one of eight Congressmen touring South Vietnam, has been investigating prisoners since his arrival here Monday.

Yesterday, he said, a young woman, accused by the Government of "serving as an intellectual proselytizing agent" for the Communist, whispered to him in a Saigon prison that she and other similarly accused prisoners had been beaten.

The 19-year-old woman, Tran Thi Phuong Thao, according to a translated charge sheet supplied to the Congressman by the American Embassy, was a member of an "illegal" organization called the Brotherhood Group "which made plans for inciting the students to struggle against the Government and demand it to implement the Paris

treaty concerning the formation of the third force."

In 1975, the charge sheet continued, the woman "was given assignment by Huynh Ngoc Trang alias Bay Thanh to write articles for student publications and Saigon newspapers in favor of the third force."

The sheet said that Huynh Ngoc Trang "was a member of the Communist-sponsored organization, United South and Student Force of South Vietnam."

The "third force" is a political term generally used to designate the non-Communist or neutralist political groups that were to participate in a reconciliation council with the Communists and the Saigon side under the Paris peace agreements of Jan. 27, 1973.

Mr. McCloskey, pointing at the charge sheet against Miss Thao, said: "If that's not a political crime, I don't know what is."

Graham A. Martin, the American Ambassador, has consistently and vigorously maintained that no case has come to his attention of anyone who has been imprisoned in South Vietnam for political reasons.