

W Post  
4-10-75

### **Palace Bomber Joins Vietcong**

SAIGON, April 9 (AP)—  
The jet pilot who bombed  
President Thieu's palace  
Tuesday later landed at a  
Vietcong-held airfield, a  
spokesman for the Viet-  
cong delegation to the  
Joint Military Commission  
in Saigon said today.

The spokesman said the  
pilot was promoted from  
lieutenant to captain and  
given the "Liberation Dis-  
tinction Service Order  
Second Class."

He declined to say ex-  
actly where the plane had  
put down. South Vietnam-  
ese authorities earlier  
identified the pilot as Lt.  
Nguyen Thanh Trung.

After making the bomb  
run, the pilot and plane—  
a South Vietnamese air  
force F-5 fighter-bomber—  
vanished. There were re-  
ports that the pilot had  
flown to a U.S. base in  
Thailand.