

# Vietcong Say Pilot Who Bombed Palace Defected to Them

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

The spokesman said the flier was promoted from lieutenant to captain and given an award, the Liberation Distinction Service Order Second Class. He declined to say exactly where the plane had landed.

South Vietnamese authorities earlier had identified the pilot as First Lieut. Nguyen Thanh Trung, who was stationed at Bien Hoa air base 15 miles north of Saigon.

He took off on a routine mission yesterday in support of South Vietnamese Government ground troops, then turned toward Saigon to strike at the palace, they said.

Mr. Thieu, who was not hurt in the attack, later vowed that he would remain in office despite growing pressure for his resignation. At least two other persons in the palace compound were reported killed in the attack.

Yesterday the Vietcong issued detailed instructions on procedure to be followed by Saigon pilots who might wish to defect.