

MAY 11 1972

Viet Report

--2 Priests

Crucified

SFChronicle

Pleiku

The senior United States adviser for the central highlands said yesterday he has reports that enemy troops have crucified two French priests in Kontum province.

John Paul Vann told a news conference that the reports spoke of atrocities in areas of Kontum province, which the enemy had occupied during the 42-day offensive.

He said that according to these reports two French priests who stayed with their congregations in the tiny village of Kon Horng, 20 miles northwest of Kontum city, were crucified in the last week. He gave no further details. He did not identify the sources of his reports or the French priests.

Vann said the family of one of his Vietnamese interpreters was murdered and a sign put over the door of their house asking what the interpreter, an employee of the allies, could do for his family now.

Associated Press

MAY 13 1972

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.