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Charge That Saigon Foiled POW Tour

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Washington

Representative Les Aspin (Dem - Wis.) contended yesterday that South Vietnam sabotaged the chance for a neutral inspection last summer of North Vietnamese camps holding U.S. prisoners of war.

He urged the administration to insist that Saigon cooperate with a possible second try.

Aspin's accusation was based on information supplied by Amnesty International, a private group concerned primarily with political prisoners of all persuasions and the organization that was to have conducted an examination of camps in both the north and south.

"The North Vietnamese agreed to an inspection on a reciprocal basis," Aspin said. "After final arrangements had been made for a trip to North Vietnam in June, the South Vietnamese canceled the visas of mission members, complaining that their officials were too busy to receive the group."

In a letter to Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Aspin said he had learned that Amnesty International may undertake a second mission to inspect the camps.

"This time the United States must insist that the South Vietnamese cooperate with any new inspection mission."

Amelia Augustus, executive director of Amnesty International's American affiliate, confirmed the organization is considering another effort to inspect the camps.

She said no dates have been mentioned but the group's international executive committee is likely to discuss the proposal tomorrow in London, the organization's headquarters.

United Press