

# Peace Copter Under Fire

Saigon

An unarmed American helicopter marked with the bright orange stripes of the Joint Military Commission was fired on yesterday while approaching a proposed prisoner of war release site, a U.S. spokesman said.

North Vietnamese and Viet Cong officers aboard were "noticably upset," the spokesman.

The helicopter was one of two choppers on a mission to

carry a JMC field team to reconnoiter the proposed site ten miles southwest of the provincial capital of Tam Ky.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government (Viet Cong) had proposed to free 50 South Vietnamese military captives there today.

As the first helicopter was making its final landing approach to the site and descended to 50 feet, gunners on the ground opened fire with automatic and semiautomat-

ic weapons, the spokesman said. The helicopter was not hit and quickly flew away from the area. The second helicopter turned back.

The proposed release site is located in an area that the Viet Cong claims to control.

"There must have been a problem with communications," said a U.S. spokesman. "To us it suggests almost a complete failure to communicate."

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