

U.S. Peace Violation Charged

Saloon

Hanoi charged yesterday that U.S. reconnaissance planes flew over North Vietnam on Monday and Tuesday, and termed the flights "violations of the Vietnam peace agreement."

It was the first such charge made by Hanoi in the 47 days since the cease-fire has been in effect.

While the U.S. military command declined comment on the allegations, other American sources acknowledged it is possible that American planes got into close "Threats" and it

that the U.S. "is not too worried" about the charges. They said the allegations will be checked and if confirmed, corrective action will be taken.

The peace agreement bans all flights January 27 of the U.S. and North Vietnam prohibits reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam. U.S. sources said that as far as they know the U.S. has honored this clause of the agreement.

FLIGHTS

The U.S. command has acknowledged that American reconnaissance flights are

continuing over South Vietnam. The U.S. says its interpretation of the agreement is that only reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam are barred.

A Radio Hanoi broadcast said that at 10:40 a.m. Monday, two U.S. jets coming from the South violated the air space of Chu Ho, Vinh Hoa, Vinh Nam and Vinh Thai in the Vinh Linh area and Dong Hai in Quang Binh province. This would be in a coastal area stretching about 65 miles above the demilitarized zone.

At 4 p.m. on March 13 a U.S. reconnaissance plane

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flew along the coast from Vinh Linh to Thanh Hoa. Radio Hanoi said Thanh Hoa is 215 miles above the demilitarized zone.

CRASH

Although North Vietnam has accused the U.S. of being a party to violations of the cease-fire by the Saigon government, this was the first time the Communists have charged the U.S. alone with a direct offensive violation.

In Washington, the Pentagon reported that several of the thousands of mines planted in North Vietnamese

waters were destroyed and exploded themselves as a result of self-destructive mechanisms. General Daniel G. Snider, a Pentagon spokesman, said none of the Communist warships which have been moving in and out of Haiphong harbor in recent days was damaged.

A U.S. Navy task force had previously detonated only one mine in more than a week of minesweeping in the shipping channels of Haiphong harbor, Pentagon spokesmen said.

* 12, 13 MAR