

## *Pilots Say Peace Plane On Course*

SAIGON — (AP) — The American pilots of one of two peacekeeping helicopters shot down by Communist ground fire in northwestern South Vietnam eight days ago insisted last night the aircrafts were not off course as the Communists claim.

The pilots told newsmen they were six miles west of Khe Sanh, near their destination of Lao Bao, when both helicopters, carrying members of the four-party International Commission of Control and Supervision, were fired at.

The lead helicopter crashed, killing all nine aboard including a Viet Cong navigator and two American pilots, while the second landed with minor damage.

The Communists have claimed that the two aircraft were 15 miles south of their course and heading southeast instead of west when the incident occurred.

The two pilots of the second helicopter — Hank DeVoll, 23, of the Panama Canal Zone, and Mark Hotchkiss, 24, of Butte, Mont. — said they and their Viet Cong liaison officer visually identified Khe Sanh before they were shot down and insisted they were on the prescribed course.

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