

VIETCONG BLAME U.S. U.S. Planes Bomb Again IN COPTER INCIDENT Near Cambodian Capital

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SAIGON, South Vietnam (Reuters)—The Vietcong said today that they had opened fire on a United States reconnaissance aircraft misusing a flight corridor for the Vietnam truce commission just below the demilitarized zone.

This explanation was given to officials of International Commission for Control and Supervision after two of the commission's helicopters flew into heavy anti-aircraft fire in Quang Tri Province yesterday.

The Canadian member of the commission, Michel Gauvin, criticized the Vietcong's explanation. He said all available evidence from observers on the spot at Quang Tri city showed there was no United States aircraft in the vicinity.

A United States spokesman also said first reports showed no American planes were in the area at the time.

The helicopters, which were clearly marked with the commission's fluorescent stripes, were carrying one man each from the four commission members—Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland. Neither craft was hit.

The American civilian pilots on contract to the commission turned back just inside Communist-held territory and returned to regional headquarters at Hue, 30 miles to the south.

The statement of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government, issued last night, was handed to the chair-

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, May 2 (Reuters)—American Phantom jets today bombed Communist positions beyond the Mekong River three miles east of Phnom Penh.

The jets streaked low to strike about 1,500 yards in front of Government troops held up on the seventh day of their clearing operation.

A Government brigade has retaken riverside hamlets within sight of the capital without opposition, but the Communists have reformed a short distance away behind a line of marshy lakes, according to military sources.

Dense crowds turned out on the Phnom Penh riverfront as usual to watch the bombing.

To the west of the Phnom Penh airport and its big air base, the sources reported, there is skirmishing between Government troops and a second advanced Communist force.

man of the truce commission, Bodgan Wasilewski of Poland.

It accused the United States of dispatching a reconnaissance aircraft—flying at an altitude of 3,000 feet—from Quang Tri city, the northernmost point of Government-held territory, along Route 1 toward Gio Linh town, five miles below the demilitarized zone.

This was the route taken by the truce commission's helicopters.