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U.S. Plane Transported N. Viet POWs

SAIGON, May 2 (AP)—U.S. Ambassador Graham A. Martin said today that the CIA's airline was used to transport North Vietnamese prisoners, but denied that this was a violation of the cease-fire.

Martin said he authorized use of an Air America flight for "humanitarian reasons" after being asked to help transport a wounded prisoner. He said he did not know that six other prisoners would be placed on board.

Martin admitted that the plane was used after Associated Press photographs taken Tuesday in the Mekong Delta showed seven North Vietnamese prisoners being led aboard an Air America plane in an apparent violation of the cease-fire. One of the prisoners was wounded in the leg but walked unaided.

According to the cease-fire accord, U.S. equipment is not to be used for military purposes.

Observers noted that the photographs also documented a North Vietnamese violation

which the Communists have consistently denied—the presence of North Vietnamese troops in the South.

The photographs were taken after the prisoners were exhibited before the townspeople Mochoa, 45 miles west of Saigon near the Cambodian border. They were captured along the border and said they were from North Vietnam.

The CIA-funded Air America is under contract to the four-nation International Commission of Control and Supervision and is used by the U.S. embassy for travel in Indochina.

A half mile from the Cambodian border and 40 miles northwest of Saigon, a South Vietnamese task force rested after a four-day sortie into the Parrot's Beak area of Cambodia, another apparent violation of the cease fire. Field officers said they had found an unexpectedly well-equipped Communist arsenal there.

The officers said that when they first entered Cambodia on Sunday they met tough resistance, but Monday and Tuesday they passed the time collecting some 100 abandoned weapons.

The South Vietnamese command denied that soldiers had crossed into Cambodia and admitted only that air and artillery fire may have spilled over in five days of heavy fighting along the border.