

## Saigon Arms Aid

# Aspin Says U.S. Broke Paris Pact

### Washington

Representative Les Aspin (Dem-Wis.) said yesterday he had found evidence in recent Pentagon testimony to Congress of four direct U.S. violations of the Vietnam peace agreement.

Citing transcripts of hearings by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, Aspin, a frequent critic of the Defense Department, said the Pentagon admits:

- Asking \$85.4 million for 28 F-5F fighters to replace F-5As the South Vietnamese held when the cease-fire was signed. The Pentagon said the two planes are roughly equal. Aspin said the F-5F is a two-seat version even more advanced than the F-5E given Saigon last year.

- Asking \$15.7 million to give Saigon 29 A-37B Dragonfly jet fighters to replace worn-out, prop-driven A-1 Skyraiders. Pentagon sources said the A-37B,

though a jet, is smaller and carries fewer bombs than the A-1.

- Spending \$6.5 million to modify four transport planes into fixed-wing gunships, which make them attack aircraft.

- Asking \$20.3 million to replace two C-7 twin-engine Caribou and two older-model C-130 Hercules transports with newer model C-130s.

In a statement, the Pentagon said it "continues to provide items to the Republic of Vietnam in accordance with the provisions of the 1973 Paris agreements."

The Pentagon said that in a few cases "identical replacements are unavailable since they are no longer in production. In these instances replacement is based upon the most similar item available as specified by article VII of the 1973 agreements."

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