

Hanoi Says Yanks Fly Saigon Jets

Saigon

North Vietnam's army newspaper said yesterday that American pilots are flying F-5 jet fighters to support South Vietnamese troops against a Communist offensive 25 miles north of Saigon. South Vietnam denied it.

The Quan Doi Nhan Dan (People's Army Paper) said "The (President Nguyen Van) Thieu administration sent many fighterbo'bers including F-5A manned by U.S. pilots to bomb and strafe the populous areas" in Binh Duong province.

It was the first accusation that Americans are taking part in the fighting since the cease-fire agreement was signed Jan. 27, 1973, and since the withdrawal of all U.S. troops the following March 31.

The Saigon command spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Le Trung Hien said, "It was a groundless and fabricated accusation. The whole South Vietnamese Air Force now is entirely manned by our own people."

"There is no foreign pilot, not to say Americans in our air force," Hien said.

United Press
