

U.S. DENIES FLYING MISSIONS IN VIETNAM

Photos

SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 20 (UPI)—North Vietnam accused American pilots today of flying combat missions over the South Vietnam and the United States again charged the Communists with continuing to block the search for the 1,100 Americans missing in the Indochina war.

The North Vietnamese Army newspaper said in a commentary broadcast by Radio Hanoi that the administration of President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam "sent many fighter-bombers including F-5A's manned by United States pilots to bomb and strafe populous areas" around the Ben Cat battlefield, 25 miles north of Saigon.

A United States Embassy spokesman in Saigon said the charge was "idiculous." The United States Air Force flies F-4 and F-111 fighter-bombers in Thailand but has no operational F-5's in Southeast Asia. South Vietnam flies F-5's.

The Saigon military spokesman, Lieut. Col. Le Trung Hien, said, "There is no foreign pilot, let alone Americans, in our air force."

— U.S. Station Aide Failed