

SFChronicle MAR 20 1973

San Francisco Chronicle 33
★★★ Tues., Mar. 20, 1973

Pilots Died In CIA China Crash

Washington

Two American pilots who flew U.S. Central Intelligence Agency agent John Downey — released by the Chinese last week — were killed when their plane crashed in China in 1952, the State Department said yesterday.

Pilot Robert Snoddy and co-pilot Norman Schwartz were flying a C-47 with Downey and another CIA agent, Richard Festeau, on board when it crashed in Manchuria in November 1952.

The two agents were captured by the Chinese. Festeau was released in December 1971.

"We have no reason to believe that these two gentlemen (Snoddy and Schwartz) are alive," State Department spokesman Charles Bray said.

Reuters