

VP  
12/17/73

PS  
FILE / SUBJ.  
DATE / SUB-CAT.  
12/73

DECISIONS MADE TO RESUME SAIGON-LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHTS

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 17 Dec 73 Evening Edition S

[Text] Saigon (VP) Dec 17--To show utmost goodwill, the RVN has decided to re-open Saigon-Loc Ninh liaison flights with helicopters last week to help the National Liberation Front delegation to the Two-Party Joint Military Commission make contact with its superiors. Such flights were suspended early in November 1973 after the other side had exploited them for military rather than liaison purpose.

According to Brig. Gen Phan Hoa Hiep, chief of the RVN delegation to the Two-Party JMC, NLF personnel designated for liaison missions had always carried with them bulky luggage which might be war material sent by Hanoi to the NLF delegation in Tan Son Nhut, and the communist side had always failed to present a list of passengers.

The first flight after the suspension was carried out Tuesday, Dec 11 and the second one on Friday, Dec 14. The RVN has provided weekly the NLF delegation with two liaison flights on Tuesday and Friday. A communist officer disclosed the NLF had agreed to establish a list of its personnel for each flight and send light luggage along with them.

Previously, during the month-long suspension, the other side had requested the RVN to resume Saigon-Loc Ninh liaison flights, but the request was rejected on grounds that these flights had not been used for liaison purpose. In this period, the RVN carried out only one special flight for transporting a fever-stricken NLF officer to Loc Ninh at the other side's request. However, the man later claimed that he had been in good health and wanted to return to Loc Ninh merely to take "a change of atmosphere". The RVN had protested against such a deceitful attitude.