

ICC ASKED TO INTERVENE WITH REBELS FOR
COL. NAM'S RELEASE.

Saigon (VP) Oct. 4

The Foreign Affairs Department yesterday asked the International Control Commission (ICC) to use its power to force the Viet Cong to free Col. Hoang Thuy Nam, chief of the Vietnamese Mission in charge of relations with the ICC, "in the shortest possible time."

Col. Nam was kidnapped Sunday morning at his farm, some 20 kilometres north of Saigon.

In a letter to the ICC, the Department said that, after murders of village residents and officials and kidnappings of rubber planters and foreign experts for ransom, the Communist authorities in Hanoi are now directly sabotaging the work of the ICC in South Viet Nam, and preventing any cooperation between it and the national administration. Clear proof of this, the letter charged, is the kidnapping of the very chief of the Vietnamese Mission in charge of ICC relations.

The letter gave the following details of the kidnapping:

"At 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Col. Hoang Thuy Nam was at his farm, some 20 kilometres north of Saigon and about 1 kilometre from the old Saigon-Bien-Hoa road, when more than 20 armed Viet Cong rebels in battle dress rushed out from the cover of nearby bushes. They told Col. Nam to get in his own car. Two Viet Cong also got into the car, one sitting by the driver and the other on the rear seat beside Col. Nam and his two sons, aged 4 and 6.

"At gun point, the Viet Cong ordered the chauffeur to drive toward Bien Hoa. When the car was still a few kilometres from this provincial capital, the rebels compelled the driver to turn left onto a small road. At a remote place with no house in sight, about 6 or 7 kilometres from the Saigon-Bien-Hoa road, they told the driver to stop the car. The Viet Cong sent the driver and the two children back and took Col. Nam with them into the forest."

The note pointed out that the circumstances of the kidnapping show it was premeditated as the Viet Cong well knew that Col. Nam customarily visited his farm on holidays.

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