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XLI. ARREST BY JAPANESE OF AMERICAN OFFICERS IN INDOCHINA

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 146, April 11, 1942)

The French Foreign Office on about March 28 informed the American Ambassador at Vichy, Admiral William D. Leahy, that the following information had been received from the Governor General of Indochina.

A captain, an aviation lieutenant, and three aviation sergeant mechanics of the American Army in a large American launch (15 by 3 meters) on March 22 arrived at a point close to a lighthouse in Tourane Bay. The captain remained in the launch, but the other four were arrested by Japanese troops and sent to Japanese barracks near by. The Governor General instructed the French Resident to take possession of the launch and to intern the commanding officer. At the same time the Governor General requested the Japanese mission to turn over the four Americans to French authorities. The Japanese, over French protest, seized the launch and arrested the captain. The Governor General has made numerous *démarches* to the Japanese authorities but up to the time of reporting had been unable to obtain the release of the captured Americans to French jurisdiction. He was continuing his efforts.

The Department of State has instructed Ambassador Leahy to urge the French Government to continue its efforts to cause the surrender of the five Americans to the French authorities.