

Stanley Cup record and World Hockey Association quarter finals

National Hockey League

Quarter finals, Series A

April 12, Montreal 4, Buffalo 2

Montreal wins best of seven four games to two.

Series D

April 12, Philadelphia 4, Minnesota 2

Philadelphia wins best of seven four games to two.

Semi finals, Series E

April 14, Philadelphia 5, Montreal 4

April 17, Montreal 4, Philadelphia 3

Series F

April 12, New York 4, Chicago 1

April 15, Chicago 5, New York 4

April 17, Chicago 2, New York 1

World Hockey Association

Quarter finals

East

New England wins best of seven four games to one.

Cleveland wins best of seven four games to none.

West

Winnipeg wins best of seven four games to one.

Houston leads best of seven three games to two.

Sugar maples in London churchyard

Two Canadian sugar maples are alive, well, and growing after being planted during February, in the new churchyard garden of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. They are there because Toronto stockbroker, Robert A. Wisener, thought it would be an appropriate gesture, in Britain's "Plant-a-Tree-Year" to present them to the

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city authorities. Also the trees mark the opening of Mr. Wisener's company new offices. A small nickel-chromium plaque made in Toronto records the date and the occasion.

The trees were planted at a short ceremony attended by city officials, the Dean of St. Paul's, J.H. Warren, High Commissioner for Canada in London, and Ontario Agent General, Ward Cornell.

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evening, and that he and his colleagues should proceed there to receive them. Early in the morning of April 9, which was yesterday afternoon by our time, General McAlpine received the Canadian survivors and we were able to positively identify, for the first time, which helicopter had been shot down. As I mentioned above, the survivors were examined medically and found to be in good condition.

"Accident" statement enforced

We have been informed by the Canadian representative on the Military Committee of the ICCS, Major General McAlpine, that when the so-called PRG officially handed over the bodies and survivors on the morning of April 9 at Gio Linh, it made an attempt to have the ICCS Military Committee sign a prepared statement claiming that the helicopters were off course and that the incident was an accident. The ICCS Military Committee quite rightly refused to meet such an outrageous demand.

From the reports which we have received, however, it is understood that before they were released, the surviving passengers and crew of the helicopter had been required to sign statements prepared by the PRG that they were off course, and that it was implied that if they refused they might not be returned to ICCS authorities. I understand that the survivors did sign the statements; I am sure that Honourable Members will make no mistake about the value of such statements signed under these circumstances....

Mr. Speaker, that is the extent of the information which is available to us now. I am bound to say that this incident is only the most tragic of a number of cases in which ICCS aircraft, all of which are clearly and

prominently marked, have been fired upon. As Honourable Members will recall, the first such incidents occurred in late February. Since the incident of which I have just given an account, I have received a report that another ICCS helicopter has been fired upon within the past 24 hours. Two Canadians were among its passengers. On April 9, in the southernmost of the ICCS's seven regions, the ICCS helicopter was accompanying a helicopter of the Joint Military Commission near a team-site called Vi Thanh. The JMC helicopter was flying at an altitude of 500 feet, and the ICCS helicopter was following it at an altitude of 6,500 feet. Both were fired upon from the ground, and the JMC helicopter is reported to have been hit by a number of rounds. As a result, all ICCS helicopters in the region have been grounded pending consideration of the matter by the ICCS at its headquarters in Saigon.

I wish to assure all Canadians, and especially the families and friends of Canadians serving in Vietnam, that the Government is taking these incidents very seriously indeed....

Continued participation in doubt

Such serious incidents will, of course, have a bearing upon the Government's decision concerning Canada's continued participation in the ICCS. Honourable Members will recall that in my statement to the House late last month, I said that the general situation in Vietnam was highly unsatisfactory, and that Canada would terminate its participation at the end of June if the situation did not improve substantially. Since then, the general situation has not improved; in fact it has deteriorated. If it does not improve very substantially, it will be clear that by continuing to serve in the ICCS, we would be staying on to observe, not a peace, not a cease-fire but a continuing war. We would be doing so, as this recent deplorable incident makes clear, at totally unjustified human risk. This we will not do. This House may be sure, and all Canadians may be sure, that we will not continue to risk Canadian lives in fulfilment of a task which is not worth doing. The parties are responsible for making the task worthwhile, by making it a task in support of peace in Vietnam. We will expect them to fulfil that responsibility.