

'Foreigners Fight

SAIGON — (AP) — Soviet, Chinese, Cuban, North Korean and French "military strategists" are advising Communist-led forces fighting in South Vietnam, a high-ranking defector from Hanoi reported today.

He said the Frenchmen are former prisoners of war not repatriated under the 1954 Geneva accords.

The defector is Dr. Dang

Tan, a former official in North Vietnam's Defense Ministry, who was sent to South Vietnam as "minister of public health" in a proposed revolutionary government.

He said he personally saw foreign Communist advisers at rest stations on the Ho Chi Minh trail when he traveled south through Laos in 1967.

In the next two years,

while he was establishing a guerrilla hospital in South Vietnam's Pleiku Province, Tan said, he saw "four or five groups of foreign military strategists, each numbering three to five men."

They always carried arms, usually wore black pajamas and were invariably accompanied by "large security forces" of North Vietnamese soldiers, he said.

'With Vietcong'

Tan, 42, spoke through an interpreter in his first interview since his defection Sept. 26, 1969. He later appeared at a news conference, but it was not explained why he had been kept under wraps by the government for more than 1½ years.

Tan's revelations could help to explain recurring reports of Caucasians seen fighting with the Viet Cong

and North Vietnamese units. These never have been proved because U.S. and South Vietnamese forces have never found any Caucasian bodies among enemy dead.

Asked if some of the foreign advisers might have been American prisoners of war, Tan replied: "No. Hanoi propaganda says American

GIs are fighting with the VC-NVA but I have never seen this with my own eyes.

"The men I saw were Russians, Chinese, Cubans, North Koreans and French. They came south to study the battlefields, to study the situation and see how they could help. I have seen them deep in South Vietnamese territory. I have heard them speaking their foreign languages."