

Peace Teams Come to Saigon

Associated Press
Saigon

The first Viet Cong delegates to arrive officially in Saigon in a decade refused to leave their plane for 20 hours because the South Vietnamese government de-

manded that they fill out customs and immigration forms. Finally the government waived the requirement today.

The ten Viet Cong representatives to the four-party peacekeeping commission landed yesterday afternoon

from Bangkok and refused to fill out the forms, apparently because they thought this would imply recognition of the Saigon government.

After extensive consultations during the night that involved U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and other

diplomats, the government admitted the Communist delegates to Saigon without the forms "in accord with the spirit of the Paris agreement," it said.

The Viet Cong action forced cancellation of a
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meeting this morning of the four-power commission, which also includes representatives of the United States, North Vietnam and the South Vietnamese government.

In Bangkok, yesterday, Colonel Dan Van Thu, the VC delegation leader, praised the cease-fire agreement as a "great step of reunification of the two Vietnams."

The standoff overshadowed the arrival of Hungarian and Polish peacekeeping members on a Soviet-built IL-18 airliner and of Indonesian delegates on two U.S. C-130s.

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The first contingent of 130 Canadian troops and 15 civilians arrived early today. The remainder of Canada's 290-member delegation is expected next week.

Security on the military side of Tan Son Nhut Airport was so heavy yesterday that few newsmen were aware of the incident involving the Viet Cong delegates.

INDONESIANS

The first peacekeeping members to arrive were 35 Indonesians who disembarked at the civilian ter-

terminal. The delegation is headed by General Dharsono, former Indonesian ambassador to Cambodia.

The next plane to arrive was the International Control Commission plane which flies weekly runs between Saigon and Hanoi through Vientiane, Laos. This week, it had some special passengers: 19 North Vietnamese peacekeeping delegates and one Viet Cong who filled out his card for customs without trouble.

The ICC plane arrived about 3 p.m. and taxied to base operations where four South Vietnamese policemen and an ICC military liaison

officer went on board. They submitted to immigration and customs processing but refused to ride to their quarters in eight limousines provided by the U.S.

OBJECTION

The North Vietnamese objected to having the ICC flags on the fenders, claiming the white flags with blue lettering resembled "flags of surrender." An American sergeant ran along the line of cars ripping off the flags.

In the meantime, though, the Communist delegates climbed into buses and drove off.

At about the time the ICC plane arrived at the civilian

terminal, the DC-3 with the ten Viet Cong aboard pulled up near base operations.

Later in the afternoon, the vanguard of the Hungarian and Polish delegations to the new control commission arrived on a Soviet Aeroflot jetliner but couldn't get off for 15 minutes.

The Hungarian delegation included 68 military men and 21 civilians. The Polish advance delegation, which made up of six civilians and a colonel. Another 60 members of the Polish mission are scheduled to arrive today.

SESSION

The ICC representatives today met for a get-acquainted session in a red-shingled, faded yellow building where an earlier commission two decades ago tried unsuccessfully to keep the peace.

"We hope to have teams

out in the field within the week," Michael Gauvin, Canada's chief delegate to the new International Commission of Control and Supervision, told newsmen as the session got under way.

Some 22 delegates from Hungary, Poland, Indonesia and Canada arrayed themselves at a long table under rotating ceiling fans where in the 1950s the old International Control Commission had gathered.

"We have no agenda," Ambassador Bogdan Wasilewski of Poland said. "We will take things as they come."

The four-party military commission is charged with the details of troop withdrawals; the four-nation international commission oversees the entire cease-fire agreement.