

**1,500 HELD ON ISLAND,
SAIGON DEPUTY SAYS**

NYTimes
APR 19 1973

SAIGON, South Vietnam, April 18, (Reuters)—An Opposition member of Parliament accused the South Vietnamese Government today of holding children and pregnant women in prison on Con Son, an island off South Vietnam in the South China Sea.

The Deputy, Ho Ngoc Nhuan, a supporter of Gen. Duong Van Minh, a former head of state who is known to many Americans as Big Minh, spoke in South Vietnam's lower house. He said that there were many people detained on political grounds although the Government had maintained that there were no political prisoners.

Mr. Nhuan said that he had received a letter from Con Son that said that there were 1,500 political prisoners held there and that they included pregnant women, old men and children under the age of nine.

He said that the status of the political prisoners had been changed to criminal offenders before the Paris cease - fire agreement was signed in January.

LNDO