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HANOI DENOUNCES SAIGON ON P.O.W.'S

Asserts U.S. Also Pretends
Most Refuse to Go Home

PARIS, June 2 (AP)—North Vietnam charged today that South Vietnam's offer to free sick and wounded North Vietnamese prisoners was a sham and denounced statements in Saigon that only 13 of 660 prisoners wanted to go home.

Nguyen Thanh Le, the North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris, said South Vietnam and the United States were pretending that only 13 wanted to go home, adding that this was "a vile and cynical maneuver" that "has amazed public opinion and the press."

Referring to Washington and Saigon, Mr. Le declared: "It should be pointed out that they have never been sincere in freeing captive patriots."

Swiss delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross interviewed 570 sick and wounded prisoners and confirmed that only 13 were willing to return to the North. South Vietnam said another group of 90 sick and wounded prisoners also refused to go home.

'Not Playing With Lives'

United States officials here said the interrogation of the prisoners was done exclusively by the Red Cross and "we will let the facts speak for themselves." One official added: "We are not playing with numbers or lives."

Mr. Le also charged that President Nixon's statements at his news conference last night "have given new evidence of the U.S.-puppet deliberate detention of Vietnamese patriots and laid bare their fallacy and hypocrisy in allegedly proposing the release of a number of Vietnamese patriots."

In his news conference, President Nixon expressed hope that the refusal of the North Vietnamese prisoners to return would not deter Hanoi from considering some action on sick

and disabled United States prisoners.

American officials had hoped that if the 660 prisoners were returned to North Vietnam it might lead Hanoi to soften its position on United States prisoners. The North Vietnamese have repeatedly said they would not discuss the release of American prisoners until the United States announced a withdrawal date for its forces in South Vietnam.

Many Said to Fear Reprisals

SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 2 (AP)—Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam confirmed today that only 13 sick or wounded prisoners of war were to be repatriated to North Vietnam on Friday. He said most of those who refused to go feared reprisals from the Communists.

"Most who want to stay dread reprisals, that there might be violence against them," the Foreign Minister said. "They seem to have enjoyed better treatment in South Vietnam, and the security situation here."

The prisoners are to be handed over to the North Vietnamese at sea off the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam. A 24-hour truce will be in effect in the area.

Vietcong Announce Truce

HONG KONG, Thursday, June 3, (Reuters)—The Vietcong command has ordered its forces to observe a 24-hour cease-fire for the transfer of prisoners of war tomorrow, Vietcong's press agency reported today.