

# Reds Tell Agreement On Political Prisoners

Paris

The U.S. has promised Hanoi that all political prisoners and detainees held in South Vietnam will be released no later than 90 days after a cease-fire, sources close to the Communist peace talks delegation said yesterday.

The sources said that the American commitment was part of the draft peace agreement worked out last month in secret U.S.-North Vietnamese negotiations. They also maintained that the U.S. had agreed that the South Vietnamese government would honor the commitment.

No official statistics of political prisoners and detainees held in South Viet-

nam have ever been released. But neutralist and pro-Communist sources have suggested that they may number as many as 200,000 and Viet Cong press spokesman Ly Van Sau recently said there were "at least 300,000."

The prisoners and detainees are known to include many Viet Cong cadres and a sizable proportion of leadership of the nationalist opposition usually described as neutralists. Their continued incarceration would represent a major source of comfort to the Saigon authorities worried about organizing the political struggle against its adversaries after a cease-fire.

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