

Saigon Clarifies Stand on Prisoners

Special to The New York Times

Saigon, South Vietnam, Dec. 8 - The spokesman for the South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a clarification today of a statement made in an interview with Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam. A dispatch based on the interview appeared in today's issue of The New York Times.

The spokesman said that when Mr. Lam said that South Vietnam could agree to release "all the prisoners" in its jails if that would help bring about a settlement of the war, he had not intended to mean that political prisoners would be released.

The spokesman said that Mr. Lam, who spoke in French, had meant only that Saigon would release military prisoners.

Whether South Vietnam would release the political prisoners has become a controversial part of the peace negotiations in Paris. North Vietnam says that under the terms of the proposed agreement Saigon is committed to free them.

[Complete.]