

U.S. Names General to Head Delegation to Four-Power Cease-Fire Commission

# WOODWARD, KOREA VETERAN, CHOSEN

JAN 27 1973

## Saigon Reportedly Selects General Dzu, Who Lost His Command in May

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 26—Maj. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward, a tough 55-year-old veteran of negotiations with the North Korean Communists, has been designated to command the United States delegation to the four-power joint military commission that will help supervise the coming Vietnam cease-fire.

General Woodward is Chief of Staff of the United States Military Assistance Command in Vietnam. In his new post, he will head the 59-member United States Delegation to the commission.

The commission, which will have its headquarters in Saigon and which will station units throughout South Vietnam, is scheduled to begin its operations as soon as the cease-fire goes into effect at 8 A.M. Sunday.

### A Minute of Silence

Tonight a message called "An appeal from the President" was broadcast over the national television and radio. In it, President Nguyen Van Thieu called on the people to observe a minute of silence in remembrance of those who had sacrificed themselves for their country and to use the six days from the beginning of the cease-fire Sunday to the Tet holidays that begin Feb. 2 to visit army units and distribute gifts to them.

At 8 A.M. Sunday, he said, all churches and pagodas would toll bells and beat gongs to mark the start of the cease-fire. The message was not delivered by President Thieu himself but was read by the announcers.

The body termed the four-party Joint Military Commission will be composed of military representatives of the United States, North Vietnam, the Saigon Government and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government. Each delegation will be headed by a general.

South Vietnamese sources reported that the commanding general of the Saigon delegation to the commission would be Lieut. Gen. Ngo Dzu, who was once accused by an American Congressman of being one of

the chief drug traffickers in South Vietnam and who was removed from his military command last May during the North Vietnamese spring offensive.

### Behind the Appointment

There was speculation that General Dzu, who has never been close to Mr. Thieu, may have been appointed to the post to demonstrate the President's disdainful attitude toward the military commission and to avoid pulling any of the stronger generals out of field commands.

There was also an unconfirmed South Vietnamese report that the Vietcong commander on the joint military commission would be Brig. Gen. Dong Van Cong, one of the few high-ranking Vietcong commanders who are natives of South Vietnam.

The Vietcong delegation is scheduled to be picked up somewhere in South Vietnam by United States helicopters on Sunday and brought to Tan Son Nhut airport on the edge of Saigon.

There was also a report that the North Vietnamese delegation to the military commission would fly into Tan Son Nhut the same day aboard an ancient commercial airliner that shuttles between Hanoi, Vientiane and Saigon. The plane is used by the international control commission that was created by the 1954 Geneva peace agreement to supervise a Vietnam cease-fire. That commission is being superseded by a new international control commission made up of Poland, Hungary, Indonesia and Canada.

There was no word on the identity of the general who will command North Vietnam's delegation to the military commission.

### A Checkered Career

The career of General Dzu, who is 48 years old, has been marked by scandal and controversy.

In 1971 Representative Robert H. Steele, Republican of Connecticut, accused him of being a major drug trafficker.

General Dzu denied the allegation, charging it had been invented by army rivals and may have been circulated by the Communists to discredit him.

The late John Paul Vann, who was General Dzu's senior American adviser, defended him, saying there was "No information available to me that in any way, shape or fashion would substantiate the charges."

Last May, General Dzu was removed from his command of Military Region II during the North Vietnamese spring offensive. Mr. Vann again defended him, saying that although Gen-

eral Dzu's forces had suffered serious reverses, he believed the general had been relieved of his command because of political pressures.

General Dzu, who has nine children, has since been living in a villa in the Joint General Staff compound near Tan Son Nhut airport.

Of General Cong little is known. He is reported by United States intelligence sources

to be a native of Kien Hoa Province in the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam, is believed to be in his mid-fifties and until recently was understood to have been serving with the Vietcong in Cambodia. He is said to be one of the highest ranking natives of South Vietnam in the Vietcong army.