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# Communist Advance Party Balks at

## DISPUTE CENTERS ON LANDING CARDS

Delegation Is Said to Feel  
Signing Would Indicate  
Recognition of Saigon

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Monday, Jan. 29—An advance party of North Vietnamese and Vietcong military representatives refused to fill in South Vietnamese landing cards yesterday and in protest remained overnight on board the plane that had brought them from Bangkok.

The 13-man group, which arrived on a South Vietnamese Air Force C-47 at 4 P.M. yesterday, is part of the two Communist delegations sent here to begin operations toward setting up the Four-Party Joint Military Commission that will help oversee the ceasefire. The other members are the United States and South Vietnam.

Two Soviet airliners also landed at Tan Son Nbut airbase here this afternoon carrying Hungarian and Polish soldiers and political officers who will represent their countries on the control commission, which also includes Canada and Indonesia.

The North Vietnamese and Vietcong who remained on their small two-engined plane, reportedly feel that signing a South Vietnamese official document would be tantamount to recognizing the Saigon Government. One of the most critical issues in the Paris peace talks was the American and South Vietnamese insistence that the Communists offer some form of recognition of the sovereignty of the Saigon Government.

However, another group of 19 North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegates, who arrived from Hanoi an hour earlier, did fill in the landing cards and were then unceremoniously whisked off to the former American Army barracks that will serve as their new living quarters.

The Communist delegates, who were dressed in what appeared to be brand new and somewhat baggy Soviet-style uniforms, were met by low-ranking American and South Vietnamese officers. When the first group of delegates descended from the plane, they looked tense and uncertain. Several of the men in the first party wore the characteristic green pith helmets often seen in heroic Communist portraits.

### Americans Try to Help

American diplomats and officers made numerous trips out to the second airplane to try to resolve the impasse. Some American officials speculated that the second group, which had come via Bangkok from Paris, and had participated in the technical sessions of the Paris talks, was more conscious of the diplomatic questions involved.

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## Saigon Procedure and

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## Remains on Plane

Another possible explanation, these officials pointed out, was that the second group was composed mostly of members of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, while the first planeload consisted of North Vietnamese officers for the most part.

South Vietnamese officials declined to comment on the problem but they apparently were refusing to back down from their insistence that the Communists follow conventional immigration procedures.

The second party was headed by Col. Luu Van Lou of North Vietnam and Col. Dan Van Thu of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Vietcong.

A larger delegation is expected from Hanoi tomorrow, bearing the heads of the delegations. These men, according to the Paris agreement, must be generals.

The scheduled first meeting last night of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission was adjourned for lack of a quorum, United States officials said, because the delegates of the Provisional Revolutionary Government had remained aboard the plane. The North Vietnamese delegates, however, did show up for the meeting.

The first group of Communists, from Hanoi, arrived precisely on schedule at 3 P.M. in the World War II vintage Boeing Stratoliner that has been used by the old International Control Commission. The arrival was one of the few events during the first day of the cease-fire to go as planned.

A South Vietnamese immigration officer entered the plane, saluted the North Vietnamese and shook hands.

After the passengers were persuaded to sign their landing cards, they stepped to the runway, blinking in the bright sun

The first party, which included 18 North Vietnamese military men and one civilian representative of the provisional Revolutionary Government carried no visible firearms. By contrast, their South Vietnamese hosts had stationed several dozen infantrymen with M-16 rifles and flak jackets around the plane, and a Government armored personnel carrier and an A-37 fighter-bomber were parked nearby.

Maj. N. R. Thomas, an Army administrative officer, made the first official American contact with the arriving Communist delegation.

Nhut and information on their new offices and living quarters.

Major Thomas was accompanied by S. Sgt. S. L. Falkenberg, a beribboned veteran of several tours of duty in Vietnam who acted as interpreter. Sergeant Falkenberg did not exchange any small talk with the Communists as far as could be heard.

Col. Nguyen Don To, the acting head of the North Vietnamese delegation pending the arrival tomorrow of a general, declined to talk to the one newsman present. The colonel, a frail-looking man, wore sunglasses and carried a leather shoulder bag.

### Security Is Tight

Security at the airport was extremely tight. Newsmen were supposed to be barred from the arrival and from all areas near the Communists' quarters, and the cameras of the few Vietnamese photographers who managed to take pictures were seized and their film exposed.

Associated Press were also detained.

There were many ironies in the day's proceedings. One of the United States Army sedans that took the Communist delegation from their plane to their quarters had two bumper stickers that read: "P.O.W.'s Never Have a Nice Day" and "M.I.A. Only Hanoi Knows."

The North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegates are being housed in a ramshackle collection of tin-roofed, prefabricated barracks once known as Camp Davis, named after one of the first Americans to die in Vietnam.

Three new tiers of barbed wire have been thrown up around the eight-foot-high chain-link fence surrounding the barracks, and a large group of South Vietnamese Rangers are on guard across the street.

South Vietnamese military cooks prepared dinner for the new arrivals, but they were withdrawn from the compound and it was not clear how the Communists would be fed in the future. The United States Army left a dozen old Ford and Chevrolet sedans and a dozen International Scouts, a jeep-like vehicle, for the Communists.

American Air Force officers who were watching the arrival were also forced to surrender their cameras to the South Vietnamese military police, and this correspondent was detained for three hours by the Government police for trying to talk to the Communists.

Barney Seibert of United Press International, Tom Lippman of The Washington Post, Ian Wilson and Bob Flores of the National Broadcasting companies, and Hugh Mulligan of

In the back of the barracks there are several bunkers covered with decaying sandbags to be used in case of rocket and mortar attacks. Tan Son Nhut was hit by 20 rockets this morning at 6:30 A.M., an hour and a half before the cease-fire formally began.