

INSPECTION TEAMS BEHIND SCHEDULE

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Both Groups Are Snarled by
Procedural Disputes —
Credentials an Issue
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By FOX BUTTERFIELD

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Thursday, Feb. 1—The two commissions that are to monitor the Vietnam cease-fire had their first official contact yesterday, but there was still no indication when either might actually begin its work in the countryside.

Michel Gauvin, the Canadian representative to the International Commission of Control and Supervision, said that delegates from the international commission were sent yesterday afternoon to meet with the Four-Party Joint Military Commission.

As provided for in the Paris agreement, the international commission is composed of Canada, Indonesia, Poland and Hungary, while the military commission is made up of the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Asked if the meeting between the two bodies was a sign some progress was being made in setting up the peace-keeping machinery, Mr. Gauvin said simply, "I think this is a positive step."

2 Bodies Behind Schedule

Each commission, according to the Paris accord, was to begin operating no later than Monday morning and was to have seven regional inspection teams in place by Tuesday morning. So far both groups have been bogged down in procedural disputes and there has been no supervision of the cease-fire whatsoever.

The deputy heads of the four delegations to the military commission met three more times yesterday for over six hours, but there was no immediate word whether the Vietcong representatives had agreed to present their credentials or make available a list of their delegation.

The Vietcong delegates' refusal to fill out standard South Vietnamese immigration forms, present their credentials to the South Vietnamese or provide a list of their members has embroiled the military commission in arguments since Sunday.

The Saigon military command said yesterday that it had received a request to pick up the chief of the Vietcong delegation today by helicopter or airplane "somewhere on the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border."

Identity Not Disclosed

A command spokesman added, however, that the Vietcong had not disclosed the identity of their delegation leader, nor had they so far given the exact time or place he was to be picked up. The spokesman said the details would be worked out by the Joint Military Commission.

The head of the North Vietnamese delegation, Maj. Gen. Le Quang Hoa, arrived in Saigon on Monday, though he actually only debarked at Tan Son Nhut air base Tuesday after spending 20 hours inside the United States Air Force plane that had brought him and other North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegates from Hanoi. He and those with him had refused to fill out South Vietnamese landing forms.

North Vietnam's Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast yesterday over the Hanoi radio, charged that the United States and South Vietnam had "blatantly violated" the Paris agreement by trying "every way to cause troubles" for the two Communist delegations to the military commission.

Meetings Kept Secret

"The United States and the Saigon Government must bear all the consequences" resulting from these problems, the Hanoi broadcast warned.

The strict secrecy and tight security that have surrounded the meetings of the military commission continued yesterday. None of the four delegations disclosed any information about the subjects discussed. American officials said privately that they had been enjoined in the strongest possible terms not to discuss the sessions of the military commission.

This correspondent, along with two other newsmen, was detained for three hours by South Vietnamese military police yesterday when they drove past the barracks where the Communist delegates are staying.

The barracks are heavily guarded by Saigon troops, but there was no sign of North Vietnamese or Vietcong guards.

The Communists' living quarters, which are in a remote corner of the giant Tan Son Nhut base, were formerly a United States Army compound called Fort Davis, named after one of the first Americans to die in Vietnam.

One of the many complex questions in setting up the peace-keeping machinery is that of the proper relationship between the military commission and international commission.

The Paris accord does not clearly spell out which of the two commissions has primary responsibility for setting up the seven regional control teams

nor which body takes ascendancy over the other. Most of the references to the two commissions are general and vague.

For instance, in Article 14 of the protocol to the accord that deals with the military commission, it says "The Joint Military Commissions and the International Commission of Control and Suspension shall closely cooperate with and assist each other in carrying out their respective functions." In other articles, the Paris agreement says both that the international commission can report to the military commission and that the military commission can report to the international commission.

Sources close to the international commission say that, in the first three days of meetings, the Canadians and the Poles—who were members of the original International Control Commission set up by the Geneva accord of 1954—have done most of the talking and arguing. The Hungarians and the Indonesians have reportedly been less active.