

# Talks on Viet Politics

## Saigon

Representatives of the four parties in the Vietnam peace agreement met in three cities yesterday in quickening diplomatic steps toward holding top-level political talks on South Vietnam and getting American war prisoners back home.

U.S. officials in Washington and Saigon said the first group of American prisoners will be released this week, but declined to give a specific timetable.

Ambassador Michel Gau-

vin of Canada, chairman of the International Commission of Control and Supervision, said release of those held in South Vietnam will be "closer to the end of the week." Later, he told newsmen the release will come "within, I presume, a week or so."

## EXCHANGE

"There will be an exchange of prisoners," Gauvin added after a four-hour commission meeting. "I don't know where or when."

Senior U.S. officials said

one of the first groups of American prisoners will be released from jungle camps along the South Vietnam - Cambodian border 60 to 70 miles north of Saigon.

In Washington, Defense Department spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim said North Vietnam is expected to release its first American prisoners by Sunday.

North Vietnamese, Viet Cong, American and South Vietnamese representatives of a prisoner committee of the Joint Military Commission met in Saigon for three

hours to iron out repatriation details. It was the third successful day they had met.

In Haiphong, Rear Admiral Brian McCauley and 15 members of his staff conferred with senior North Vietnamese officials on clearing mines from North Vietnamese ports and inland waterways.

## COUNCIL

In Paris, South Vietnamese and Viet Cong delegates met for the first time for preliminary talks to set the stage for negotiations on the

# and U.S. Prisoners

future political shape of South Vietnam.

The peace agreement says that immediately after the cease-fire, which went into effect January 28, the two South Vietnamese parties would hold consultations to set up a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord of three equal segments—the South Vietnamese, the Viet Cong and neutralists. The council would organize free and democratic elections.

In South Vietnam, U.S. planes and helicopters car-

ried teams of 20 to 40 men each from the International Commission of Control and Supervision and the North Vietnamese members of the Joint Military Commission into seven regional sites to begin peacekeeping duties.

U.S. and South Vietnamese representatives of the Joint Military Commission already were in position and the Viet Cong members were expected to join soon.

## VIOLATIONS

The Saigon military command reported 89 alleged cease - fire violations during

the 24-hour period ended at 8 a.m. yesterday that marked the first time the number reported fell below 100 since the truce officially began.

Lieutenant Colonel Le Trung Hein, chief spokesman for the command, said the latest violations raised the total to 1668 and that a total of 4065 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops have been killed. He reported South Vietnamese losses as 635 men killed, 2700 wounded and 427 missing since the cease - fire began.

Associated Press