

SAIGON PARLEYS ARE DRAGGING ON

But There Are Signs That
Some Progress Is Made

By CHARLES MOHR
Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Friday, Feb. 9—Steps toward carrying out the terms of the agreement for a Vietnam cease-fire dragged yesterday, but

there were a few signs of progress.

Vietnamese and American sources indicated that it would probably be Monday before the first group of American prisoners of war would be released in Communist base areas in South Vietnam. The same sources had expressed the belief earlier that the releases in the South might begin tomorrow.

sources had said privately that Communist forces planned to free 27 Americans on Sunday near An Loc, 60 miles north of Saigon, but the official spokesman denied having any infor-

mation "that makes any of this for sure."

The report that it now appeared that an exchange and release of prisoners of war would probably take place on Monday followed a meeting of senior officials of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission.

The commission, consisting of delegations from the United States, the Saigon Government, North Vietnam and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government, met for the sixth time yesterday in secrecy at the Tan Son Nhut air base at Saigon.

Sources close to the military commission said that its members had exchanged lists of prisoners of war. The sources said that the North Vietnamese and Vietcong had presented a list of 108 American prisoners held in South Vietnam.

The South Vietnamese officers have given the other side a list of about 26,000 Communist prisoners and the Vietcong presented a list of about 4,000 South Vietnamese prisoners, the sources said.

The chief delegates of the International Commission for Control and Supervision, consisting of men from Canada,

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1973

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Hungary, Indonesia and Poland, did not meet yesterday.

A commission source said that 12 days after the cease-fire officially began the members had not yet agreed to check out any of the complaints of violations of the cease-fire that have been received.

Meanwhile, fighting was continuing on a relatively small scale throughout much of South Vietnam yesterday.

The signs of progress included the return from Hanoi of four American C-130 transport planes, carrying 157 North Vietnamese military men and

30 men from the Provisional Revolutionary Government. The planes had flown to Hanoi on Wednesday. Later the aircraft took the North Vietnamese to Hue, La Nang and Pleiku in South Vietnam, where they joined the Four-Party Military

More Vietcong Are Due

Thus, it was reported, a full Commission's regional teams. A contingent of 825 North Vietnamese truce-keeping men had now arrived in South Vietnam. Only about 150 to 160 of the Vietcong delegates were said to be here, however, and the Vietcong representation on the seven regional teams was far

from complete.

This seemed to be one factor slowing the carrying out of the inspection provisions of the cease-fire accord.

Pham Dang Sum, an official of the South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, said that low-level negotiators in Paris had agreed to make Saigon the site for a conference with Viet Cong representatives on the political future of South Vietnam, but he added that no date for the start of talks here had been set.

Some procedural matters remained to be settled in Paris, he said, and his Government hoped that the "substantive

talks can begin early." Saigon, Mr. Sum said, is "ready to implement correctly" the terms of the cease-fire agreement.

The Saigon Government, meanwhile, continued to isolate the Communist delegates here from the press and from the South Vietnamese population.

Pham Duong Hien, a press relations official of the Government, had promised on Wednesday that reporters would be able today to enter Tan Son Nhut. Twenty-three of them were arrested yesterday when they attempted to speak with Communist delegates.

DO NOT FORGET THE NEEDIEST!