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## About 30 in First Group

# U.S.-Hanoi POW Release Terms

### Saigon

The U.S. and North Vietnam have concluded an agreement on the date, sites and number of American prisoners to be released in the first group, senior American officials disclosed last night.

These officials would not disclose the substance of the agreement. But they indicated the release will come sometime between tomorrow and Monday, and that the initial group to be freed in South Vietnam will number about 30.

South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu indicated during an impromptu news conference that there have been disputes in the four-party Joint Military Commission over the number of Vietnamese prisoners to be freed and the timing of their release. But American officials said any such disputes concern Vietnamese prisoners and do not involve Americans.

### TIMETABLE

The Americans noted that the Communist side has agreed to a date apparently within the timetable laid down by Henry A. Kissinger. Kissinger has said the U.S. expects American prisoners to be released at two-week intervals in roughly equal installments from the signing of the agreement until the 60-day deadline for U.S. troop withdrawal and prisoner repatriation, which is March 28.

Pentagon sources said Wednesday night in Washington that 27 American prisoners held in jungle camps in the South will be released Sunday near An Loc.

An Loc is a provincial capital 60 miles north of Saigon and ten miles from the Cambodian border. One of the war's bloodiest and most

sustained battles was fought there last summer.

### VISIT

Indications from the Pentagon sources were that the first POW release from North Vietnam might coincide with Kissinger's four-day visit to Hanoi.

Kissinger, President Nixon's foreign policy adviser, arrived in Bangkok last night on his way to Hanoi and Peking. He will leave tonight for Vientiane and cease-fire talks with Laotian leaders before flying to Hanoi tomorrow for four days of conferences with North Vietnamese leaders on post-war relations and U.S. aid.

### MISSING

Thieu told newsmen after addressing an ethnic minorities convention in Saigon that details still are being worked out on Vietnamese

military prisoner exchanges.

"One important thing is that we say we are missing about 30,000 soldiers and the Communists have just given us a list of only 4000," Thieu said. "Where are the other many thousands?"

"Meanwhile, their prisoners of war are very well controlled," he added.

While Thieu said details of Vietnamese prisoner exchanges are still being worked out, South Viet-

namese military sources said release of 1000 South Vietnamese prisoners held by the Communist side and 2000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong held by Saigon is planned for Monday.

Sources said disputes between Communist and South Vietnamese members of the four-party Joint Military Commission still are preventing the commission from doing its job of marking off territory held by either side.

The sources indicated that the dispute centers on Communist demands for freedom of movement to Viet Cong controlled areas to talk with field commanders.

Communist regional teams have been unable to move freely because the South Vietnamese apparently have restricted such travel and because fighting continues in many contested areas of the country.

*Associated Press*