

# HANOI WILL FREE 115 U.S. CAPTIVES TOMORROW NIGHT

FEB 10 1973

Vietcong Also Plans Release  
of 27, Pentagon Reports—  
Sick May Be Included

NO NAMES YET PROVIDED

Number Is About One-Fourth  
of Total Reported Held  
by the Communists

NYTimes

By WILLIAM BEECHER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—The Pentagon announced today that North Vietnam planned to release about 115 American prisoners of war in Hanoi sometime Sunday night, Eastern standard time, while 27 more prisoners would be turned over by the Vietcong in South Vietnam.

Jerry W. Friedheim, the department spokesman, said that some sick and wounded were expected to be included in the first major prisoner release.

The total represents about one-fourth of the 562 American prisoners accounted for to date in North Vietnam, South Vietnam and Laos.

## Word Comes in Saigon

Mr. Friedheim said that the first word on the release came in Saigon today during a meeting of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission. The precise times of release will be made known at tomorrow's meetings of the commission, he added.

In announcing the Vietnam cease-fire agreement, Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security and chief negotiator, said the North Vietnamese and Vietcong had agreed to release the American prisoners, one-fourth at a time, at about 15-day intervals. The United States undertook to withdraw its troops from South Vietnam during this same 60-day period.

The first group of prisoners is to be released 15 days from the signing of the cease-fire on

Jan. 27.

North Vietnam has agreed to allow an 18-man team of American specialists, including doctors, to fly to Hanoi three hours before the release of prisoners to facilitate the transfer, Mr. Friedheim said. He added that Hanoi had also agreed to admit representatives of the International Commission of Control and Supervision to observe the release, which will occur Monday morning, Vietnam time.

## To Fly to Philippines

The men will be flown by specially equipped transports to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, where they will be checked and, if necessary, given preliminary treatment by doctors. They will also be asked about other prisoners.

Mr. Friedheim estimated that it would take three or four days for the first prisoners to be processed through Clark and flown to hospitals near their homes in the United States. They will be reunited with their families at the hospitals.

The 27 prisoners to be released by the Vietcong will be

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turned over at an old airstrip at Quan Loi, about 60 miles north of Saigon. They will probably be flown by helicopter to Saigon and from there by transport to Clark.

Mr. Friedheim said the names of the first group of prisoners to be returned had not yet been provided. When the names are turned over, probably at tomorrow's meeting of the mixed military commission in Saigon, the families of the men will be informed first and then the press, he said.

The North Vietnamese and Vietcong have provided the names of 456 military prisoners in North Vietnam, 99 military and 26 civilian prisoners in South Vietnam, and seven military and three civilian prisoners in Laos.

Mr. Friedheim said that for days the United States had been seeking to arrange for representatives of the International Red Cross to visit the camps where the remaining prisoners are held. But he said there was no progress to report on this proposal as yet.

\*Kissinger's careful wording is "we expect that ..." and "our expectation is ..." (From transcript of his news conference, NYTimes 25 Jan 73, p. 19, col. 4, and p. 21, col. 5.)

## Saigon Will Free 2,000

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Feb. 9—Informed South Vietnamese military officers said today that the Saigon Government would turn over 2,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong prisoners on Monday and receive 1,020 of its own captured soldiers at the same time as 27 Americans held by the Vietcong are released.

The officers said the South Vietnamese would release 1,000 prisoners at Quan Loi, where the Americans will be turned over, and another 1,000 at Don Gha, just south of the demilitarized zone in the extreme north of South Vietnam. Both areas have been controlled by the Communists since early last year.

The officers said the Communists would free 700 Government soldiers at Quan Loi and 320 in the vicinity of Pleiku in the Central Highlands. They said they were not sure whether the highlands site was in Government or Communist hands.

The subcommittee on prisoners of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission has been meeting every day this week and reportedly discussing the details of the first exchange of men.

Since midweek the American helicopter crews who will transport the prisoners and members of the International Commission of Supervision and Control have been on a two-hour alert.

The staff of the large American military hospital on the edge of Tan Son Nhut Air Base on the outskirts of Saigon has also been on alert since midweek and the air force has had two DC-9 hospital planes standing by to fly the freed Americans to Clark Air Force base in the Philippines.

The South Vietnamese say they have about 26,000 Communist prisoners, including about 10,000 North Vietnamese. The Communists say they are holding 4,000 South Vietnamese soldiers. South Vietnamese officers charged tonight, however, that the Communists have far more Government troops than they have admitted.

## U.S. Plane Lost in Laos

HONOLULU, Feb. 9 (AP)—The Pacific Command today reported the loss of a United States reconnaissance plane in Laos.

The plane was a Air Force EC-47 that crashed Monday in southern Laos, the command said. It said that the cause of the crash was not known and that the crewmen had been listed as missing.

The command did not say how many men were aboard the plane nor did it release any identities. The EC-47s normally have six to eight crewmen.

For almost two weeks the command has issued without amplification daily statements that American warplanes were bombing in Laos at the request of the Laotian Government.