

Territorial Claims in Vietnam Said to Delay Effective Truce

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By SYLVAN FOX FEB 10 1973
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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Feb. 9—The chairman of the new International Control Commission asserted today that an effective cease-fire was being delayed because the Saigon Government and the Communists have been unable to agree on clear lines separating the territories they hold.

Michel Gauvin of Canada, this month's chairman of the International Commission of Control and Supervision, spoke as the second week of the official Vietnam cease-fire neared its end.

He said in an interview that the establishment of demarcation lines between Saigon's troops and Communist forces was the key to an effective halt in the fighting. So far, he said, no such lines have been drawn and the cease-fire remains less than effective despite what he called "an encouraging substantial reduction in fighting."

Mr. Gauvin said responsibility for drawing the lines lay with the Four-Party Joint Mil-

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tary Commission, consisting of the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Vietcong.

"The Joint Military Commission has as yet failed to get an effective cease-fire all over the country," he said. "It has failed to establish lines of demarcation between the two sides."

The joint military commission was set up in Paris on Jan. 27. These attempts reportedly failed and the problem was turned over to the Joint Military Commission, which is now trying to resolve them.

South Vietnamese sources agreed that the problem of defining areas of control and drawing demarcation lines has proved to be a major haggling point at the meetings of the Joint Military Commission.

At one recent meeting according to a South Vietnamese source, General Ngo Dzu, South Vietnamese delegate, insisted that there be no areas of control until the Vietcong had pulled out of the local fighting units.

According to his account, General Dzu said the chief reason for this was that Vietcong forces were always involved in mobile operations occupying fixed territorial positions.

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lines of demarcation should have been reached before the cease-fire went into effect.

It is understood that attempts to draw such lines were made during the negotiations that preceded the signing of the peace agreement in Paris on Jan. 27. These attempts reportedly failed and the problem was turned over to the Joint Military Commission, which is now trying to resolve them.

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When Gen. Tra Quang Hoa, North Vietnamese delegate, interrupted to defend General

Tra, he was abruptly told by General Dzu not to interfere in a matter that concerned only the two South Vietnamese sides, the source reported. The haggling continued without producing any tangible results, it was said.

Mr. Gauvin said that up to now Canada was "very satisfied" with the way the International Commission of Control and Supervision was operating.

Canada joined the commission with the understanding that if at the end of 60 days it was not functioning effectively she would withdraw.

Mr. Gauvin said that while there had been differences of views on the commission "we have managed to find reasonable compromises."

He cited the instance in which Hungary and Poland insisted on waiting until the Joint Military Commission was operational before sending teams into the field. Canada had sought to dispatch the teams immediately.

"We had a little argument about that," said Mr. Gauvin.

Ultimately a compromise was reached in which the teams were sent into the field after a 48-hour delay.

The International Control Commission met for an hour and a half today to discuss administrative matters, including identification cards, flags and armbands and living conditions. But informed officers said there was no meeting of the main body of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission.

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