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Tough New Peacemaker

N.Y. Times Service

Saigon

The Saigon government has abruptly replaced the head of its delegation to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, a military spokesman said last evening.

Diplomatic observers said this indicated the government's recognition of the crucial importance of the military commission and dissatisfaction with the performance of Lieutenant General Ngo Dzu, who has headed the delegation since the commission was organized shortly after the start of the cease-fire.

Dzu was replaced by Lieutenant General Du Quoc Dong, a former commander of South Vietnam's elite

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paratroop division.

In the summer of 1971 Dzu, who was then commander of South Vietnam's Military Region Two with headquarters in the central highlands, was accused by Representative Robert H. Steele of Connecticut of being "one of the chief traf-fickers" of narcotics in Southeast Asia.

He was dismissed as commander of the military region in mid-1972 after troops under his command lost a series of key defensive positions, thus gravely endan-gering the highlands provincial capital of Kontum.

When Dzu was appointed to head the South Vietnamese delegation to the military commission, informed diplomats and South Vietnamese officials said President Nguyen Van Thieu had done so to show that he did not take the commission serious-

"The spokesman said last night that Dzu had been removed Saturday night because of his "physical condition." The spokesman would not elaborate. There had, however, been recent reports that the general's health had been failing.

CEREMONY

Dong took charge of the delegation in a brief ceremony yesterday morning. Dzu was not present.

Dong is regarded as a firstrate soldier and troop commander, but little is known of his abilities in politics and administration.

For the past few months he has been serving as the military governor of Saigon, a largely ceremonial post.

In the days since the start of the cease - fire on January 28 the four-party Joint Military Commission, made up of representatives from Vietnam, the United States, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolu-Government, has evolved as the most significant body in the implementation and observation of the Paris peace agreement.

The leaders of the International Commission of Control and Supervision, made up of representatives from-Canada, Poland, Hungary and Indonesia, have said that their monitoring of the cease-fire depends on cooperation and assistance from the military commission.

DELEGATIONS

The Communist delegations to the military commission have complained that they have been receiving poor treatment from the Saigon government.

They have said that they are being subjected to near-prison-like living conditions and that their food has been below par. They have said they would like to meet with the foreign press but they, have been blocked from doing so and foreign news-men who have tried to reach the Communists have been arrested.

In a broadcast two days ago, the Hanoi radio person-ally criticized Dzu for the shoddy treatment and said that he had been obstructing the commission's progress.

There were no meetings yesterday of the main bodies

of either the military commission or the international supervisory commission. There were, however several meetings of the military commission's subcommittee on prisoners of war.