

U.S. Urges the Vietcong to Speed Deployment of

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Thursday, Feb. 15 — The chief of the United States delegation to the Joint Military Commission has urged the Vietcong to speed the deployment of their cease-fire supervisory teams, an official United States spokesman said yesterday.

The call, by Maj. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward, came on a day with the highest reported number of Communist violations of the cease-fire since Feb. 2, shortly after the peace agreement was signed.

A Saigon military spokesman said there had been 188 Communist violations of the cease-fire in the 24-hour period that ended at dawn yesterday, resulting in 44 Saigon Government soldiers killed and 314 wounded. Although there were no major battles reported, that number of casualties is roughly equal to an average day during the war last year.

Vietcong Teams Lagging

General Woodward, the chief United States delegate to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, which includes Saigon, Hanoi and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government, made his call in a letter to the chief Vietcong delegate, Lieut. Gen. Tran Van Tra. According to the United States spokesman, General Woodward stressed that the Vietcong should get their teams "in position as soon as possible to assist the parties in establishing a true cease-fire."

The Vietcong's failure to deploy their teams is one of several developments that have kept the peace-keeping machinery set up by the Paris

agreement from beginning its work.

Of the seven regional teams and 26 local teams that the Paris accord stipulated had to be in place by last Monday, the Vietcong have deployed only parts of four regional teams and no local teams at all. By contrast the United States has all its regional teams and all but two of its local teams in place.

The Vietcong have sent teams—of five to seven men—only to regional sites at Can Tho, My Tho, Bien Hoa and Phan Thiet. Under the Paris accord, each regional team is supposed to be composed of 16 members from each delegation and each local team of four members apiece.

North Vietnam has deployed all seven full regional teams, but so far none of its local teams.

Facilities Called Inadequate

Both the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese have complained that the facilities for the teams, which have been provided by the United States and South Vietnamese, are inadequate. And there have been several instances where the arriving North Vietnamese teams were greeted by hostile demonstrations.

General Woodward's letter was in response to these complaints, the United States spokesman said. General Woodward noted that some of the facilities "are still austere because of wartime conditions and remote locations. "But he insisted that the United States and the Saigon Government had "endeavored to provide the best possible facilities in the short time available."

The general also pointed out that it is the Saigon Govern-

ment, not the Americans, who is responsible for the security of the delegations. He added, according to the spokesman, that "until the cease-fire becomes stable, there will be some unavoidable risks which the United States delegation has already accepted in deploying its own personnel."

Getting the military commission teams in place is critically important to monitoring the cease-fire because officials of the International Commission of Control and Supervision have repeatedly stated that they cannot act until the military commission's teams are

there to provide security and guidance for them.

The international commission, the other peace-making commission created by the Paris accord, is composed of Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland. It has sent out its own seven regional teams but is waiting to deploy its 26 local teams until the military commission's teams are in place.

In addition to the delay in getting the various supervisory teams in place, the work of monitoring the cease-fire has also been hamstrung by the failure of the military commis-

Truce Teams

sion to draw up lines of demarcation dividing the territory controlled by the Communists from that held by the Saigon Government. International Commission officials say they cannot begin their task until such lines are clearly defined.

The Saigon Government today filed its fifth formal complaint to the international commission of Communist cease-fire violations, a Government spokesman announced. The complaint, which covered the period from 6 A.M. Feb. 11 to 6 P.M. Feb. 12 listed 173 violations.