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**Saigon Threatens to Delay Release of Prisoners**

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Feb. 15 — South Vietnam today held up the release of Communist prisoners of war if the Communists continued to delay the return of prisoners they hold.

South Vietnam freed 604 Communist captives by noon today, all of them women serving with the guerrillas, and had planned to release 1,000 more.

But the South Vietnamese military spokesman, Lieut. Col. Le Trung Hien, said at his daily press briefing that the Communists had promised to liberate 320 South Vietnamese prisoners at Pleiku, in the Central Highlands, and had not yet done so.

"They keep delaying," the spokesman said. "If they do, we'll stop at 4,000."

Saigon announced earlier that it would free 7,000 captives by Sunday. According to Colonel Hien, 1,510 were freed before today.

This morning the 604 women were flown from a prison camp in Can Tho, in the Mekong

Delta to Loc Ninh, a Communist controlled town 75 miles north of here, and released. Colonel Hien said that 300 more women were to be freed later today.

This afternoon 700 male prisoners were flown from Bien Hoa near here to Camp Evans, near the demilitarized zone, for release later.

The Communists set free 711 Government soldiers last Monday and Tuesday but have released none since then, the spokesman said. The Communists had announced that they would release a total of 1,020 captives.

Like everything in the cease-fire arrangements, the prisoner exchange has been bitterly disputed by both sides. The figure of 4,000 at which the Saigon Government threatened to cut off its release of Communist soldiers, equals the number of Government captives that the Communists said they were holding when the fighting was to be halted on Jan. 28.

But Saigon contends that the Communists hold perhaps 10 times that many. Moreover, the military spokesman an-

nounced today that 900 Government soldiers had been listed as missing in action since the cease-fire went into effect.

The Government reported that it was holding about 26,000 Communist captives. It has not yet set a date for their release beyond the first group of 7,000 by Sunday.

The military spokesman reported continued fighting in various parts of the country. He accused the Communists of 194 violations of the cease-fire between 6 A.M. yesterday and noon today.

Colonel Hien said that since the cease-fire became official, 6,300 Communist soldiers and 1,086 Government troops had been killed, as well as 52 civilians. The number of wounded was listed as 4,981 Government soldiers and 270 civilians.

The Government reports a total of 3,222 violations of the cease-fire by the Communists.

The American military command, for its part, reported that 1,465 American servicemen had been withdrawn since last Sunday, leaving 15,744 in Vietnam.