

# Regional Truce Teams Unable to Act

NYTimes FEB 17 1973  
By HENRY KAMM

Special to The New York Times

MY THO, South Vietnam, Feb. 16—The two commissions to carry out and supervise the Vietnam cease-fire maintain regional headquarters in this Mekong Delta town 40 miles south of Saigon, but they are inactive and almost invisible.

"Up to now we have had no opportunity to be useful," said Lieut. Col. Jozsef Kozma, chief of the Hungarian component of the four-nation International Commission of Control and Supervision.

The same sentiment, in somewhat more cautious terms was expressed by Polish, Indonesian and Canadian officers, who share quarters with the Hungarians at the grandly named Grand Hotel, a simple structure surrounded by South Vietnamese

policemen in and out of uniform.

Col. Tadeusz Wiernikowski, chief of the Polish delegates to the international group, said that the Joint Military Commission, consisting of the four parties to the cease-fire accord, had not begun to function in the My Tho region.

He watched a mouse saunter up the electric cord leading to the nonfunctioning clock over the hotel bar and asked the Chinese waitress

in German whether it was a tiger. Then he took a sip from a glass of luke-warm coconut milk she had poured for him, fished out what he called "amoeba" and looked dubious.

"Our work is stopped," Colonel Wiernikowski said, conceding when asked that it had not yet begun. He said the international group could not begin to function effectively until the Joint Military Commission was working.

The three Vietnamese members of the commission—South Vietnam, the Vietcong and North Vietnam—are housed about five miles from town in a former American military base at Dong Tam. South Vietnamese troops in armored cars patrolled the road in apparent search for enemy troops.

A guard refused entry to  
Continued on Page 6, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

the camp and said that no Communist delegates lived there. Asked about Vietcong delegates, he pointed to a nearby area that was being shelled by Government artillery and indicated that the only Vietcong were in the area under fire.

The American members of the regional military group live in a compound on the other side of town. Two captains who declined to give their names informed a caller that they were too busy working to explain what they were working at.

One of them, asked whether his name was Patterson, which was imprinted on his uniform, replied: "I'd rather not say."

## No Violations Reported

Col. R. B. Screamon, commander of the Canadians on the International Commission, said he and his colleagues had not yet undertaken investigations of cease-fire violations, nor had any been officially brought to their attention.

"You can hear the bangs," he said, "but we don't know who is making the bang or who is receiving the bang."

He said that while the cease-fire agreement allowed independent investigation of violations, it would be more meaningful and effective if all parties concerned would agree to investigate.

Members of the International Commission, in an evident desire to refrain from recriminations at an early stage, indicated without



The New York Times/Feb. 17, 1973

specifically saying so that responsibility for the non-functioning of the cease-fire machinery lay with South Vietnam.

## Refusal to Judge Motives

"Our contacts with the American officers have been first-class," Colonel Wiernikowski said. "We think they want to support our work."

"The South Vietnamese officers have been less friendly to us," the Polish officer continued, but he refused to pass judgment on their motives.

Colonel Kozma, the Hungarian delegate, asked rhetorically if anyone thought North Vietnam or the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Vietcong "came here because they do not want a joint Military Commission."

Colonel Screamon nodded in agreement as his colleagues from the Communist countries spoke, but he refrained from commenting himself.

The Hungarian and Cana-

dian officers said that when they and their Polish and Indonesian colleagues went to call on the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong officers at Dong Tam four days ago, they were stopped at the gate by South Vietnamese officers and told that they could not enter for security reasons.

Yesterday, after receiving special permission, they were allowed to visit the Communist members of the Military Commission. The Canadian, Polish and Hungarian colonels said they found them living in uncomfortable and unhygienic conditions.

## Sentries and Mine Field

Colonel Kozma, noting that the principal problem was their inability to leave their camp, said: "The two delegations have sentries at their doors and a mine field around them."

"The Four-Party Joint Military Commission will work for only 60 days, and 30 days are nearly up," the Hungarian said. "If it does not function in 60 days, the other parts of the agreement will perhaps also not be valid."

"In that case," he continued, "we all will have come only for the journey."

The date on which the four-party military body is to be reduced to its South Vietnamese Government and Vietcong members is March 28. The International Commission has no deadline.

Meanwhile, two of the Indonesian officers are keeping occupied by teaching English to the waitresses at the Grand Hotel.