

U.S. Prods Reds on Truce Teams

Saigon

The United States asked the Communists yesterday to free the next group of American prisoners as soon as possible and to move its field teams to subregional truce sites "to dampen major hostilities."

At a meeting of chief delegates of the U.S., North and South Vietnam, and the Viet Cong to the Joint Military Commission, the U.S. expressed concern that the Communist side is not moving its teams into the field.

The U.S. and South Vietnam teams are at 24 of the 26s sites, North Vietnam at five and the Viet Cong at none.

U.S. sources reported that the Communist side claimed lack of security and of suitable accommodations was the reason for delay in sending peacekeeping representatives to the field sites.

One source said the Communists had made "excessive demands" for accommodations and included in their requests television sets, ceiling fans, billiard tables and liquor.

Teams of the International Commission of Control and Supervision began their move to 14 of the subregional sites yesterday. The deadline for these sites to be operational, as specified in the Vietnam peace agreement, is Monday. 26 FEB

At a meeting of the sub-commission on captured persons in Saigon the U.S. proposed that the second group of about 140 U.S. prisoners be released in North and South Vietnam before next Tuesday's deadline.

Bui Tin, the chief spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation, said the sub-commission will meet again today and there could be word from the Communist side then.

Associated Press