

U.S. Still Waiting for New POW List

Associated Press

Saigon

The chief delegates of the four-party Joint Military Commission went into session today and U.S. spokesmen said they expected the Communist side to turn over a list of American prisoners scheduled for release this week.

The Communists failed Saturday to submit the list or to fix specific times and places for the releases in North and South Vietnam.

They gave no official reason but it was known they were embittered by attacks by South Vietnamese mobs on two North Vietnamese compounds in which nine persons were injured.

Before today's meeting, the U.S. command issued a statement saying U.S. troop withdrawal was ahead of schedule — an apparent hint that the other side should speed up release of U.S. prisoners. The Communist side issued its own declaration, accusing the U.S. and the Saigon government of "intentionally continuing a sabotage policy" of the peace agreement.

Hundreds of shouting South Vietnamese, throwing rocks and waving banners,

See Back Page

From Page 1

attacked North Vietnamese compounds in the northern cities of Hue and Da Nang. The demonstrations apparently were tacitly sanctioned by Saigon, but got out of hand.

Seven North Vietnamese delegates to the military commission and two South Vietnamese policemen were reported injured. Bui Tin, chief spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation, said four Communist delegates were seriously wounded at Hue.

The Viet Cong accused the Saigon government of nearly 12,000 truce violations in areas controlled by the Communists in operations it said were aimed at land grabbing.

The Communist side alleged that South Vietnamese bombers were launching 200 to 250 combat air missions every day to attack areas selected by the Viet Cong as sites for Joint Military Commission meetings, prisoner releases and legitimate points of entry for armaments.

CHARGES

"The U.S. intentionally delayed or avoided its responsibilities on giving sufficient information on its troop withdrawal plans and did not allow the Provisional Revolutionary Government to make a census of the U.S. and allied troop withdrawal," the Communist side said.

"The U.S. also declared that there were no U.S. bases in South Vietnam, in order to avoid their destruction as required by the agreement. In fact, the U.S. still does not abandon its Vietnamization program."

The U.S. command announced today that the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam was slightly more than 50 per cent com-

pleted at the halfway mark of the 60-day deadline set for withdrawal and prisoner release.

As of midnight yesterday, U.S. troops strength in Vietnam stood at 11,724 compared with 23,500 when the pact was signed in Paris.

Tin said that he did not think the demonstrations would affect the American prisoner release, expected tomorrow, according to U.S. reckoning.

He indicated that one major problem still unresolved is a dispute between the Communist side and the Saigon government over the release of Vietnamese civilian prisoners.

"While we sympathize with the families of the American POWs, I want to

remind you that here in Vietnam there are thousands of families waiting for their kin to return from detention," Tin said. "We want to satisfy this sentiment and bring them back together."

Major General Daniel James, a top spokesman at the Pentagon, refused yesterday to tie the delay in the list to the troubles at Hue and Da Nang.

James said he understood that North Vietnamese and Viet Cong representatives in Saigon told Major General Gilbert Woodward, the chief U.S. representative on the Joint Military Commission, that they are having trouble communicating with their people in the field. Other sources expressed the view that the Communists are "playing games with us."

U.S. spokesmen said they had anticipated that a list of about 140 American POWs would be turned over to the U.S. along with the arrangements for their repatriation. As soon as the list is turned over, it will be transmitted to the Pentagon and State Department in Washington so families of the men can be notified.

U.S. spokesmen said that according to the U.S. timetable, the list should have been handed over yesterday and the prisoners released tomorrow. They added, however, that if the U.S. receives the list today and gets agreement on times and sites, they probably still can get the prisoners out tomorrow.

The Communist side freed 43 American servicemen and civilians in North and South Vietnam February 12 in the first of four anticipated releases. Twenty more Americans were released ahead of schedule in Hanoi February 18 as a goodwill gesture after the visit there of Henry Kissinger.



South Vietnamese civilians, in white shirts, attacked a fleeing Hanoi truce representative, right, near Hue yesterday. Two U.S. officers, center and foreground, tried to stop the attack.

AP Wirephoto