

Hanoi Promises to Talk  
on Release of Prisoners

## Aides Hint POW List Is in Saigon

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Feb. 28—A North Vietnamese colonel believed carrying a new list of American prisoners to be released arrived in Saigon from Hanoi Wednesday.

Col. Hoang Hoa arrived aboard an International Control Commission flight.

Reporters who asked a North Vietnamese spokesman in Saigon, Col. Bui Tin, whether Hoa was carrying a new prisoner list were told: "We believe so."

Asked whether the arrival of Hoa meant that the delayed second phase of prisoner releases would now begin soon, Tin said: "We shall see. If the U.S. side gives clear proof of their good will in carrying out the agreement, everything will get under way without trouble. We are fully prepared for the next release."

From Hanoi, Agence France-Presse reported that foreign journalists were authorized to go to Gialam airport Thursday, suggesting that a new batch of U.S. prisoners is to be released.

The first sign of a possible breakthrough in the deadlocked prisoner issue came shortly after U.S. military sources disclosed that outgoing flights of withdrawing American troops were frozen early today.

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, paid a call on South Vietnamese President Thieu. U.S. officials said they could not give the reason for the visit.

Underscoring the souring atmosphere, the chief U.S. delegate to the four-party Joint Military Commission made up of the former Vietnam belligerents issued what was interpreted as a threat of air attacks against Communist missile sites below the Demilitarized Zone. The United States alleges they were set up in violation of the cease-fire.

Maj. Gen. Gilbert N. Woodward warned that the United

States "reserves the right with its allies to take such actions as it deems appropriate" if North Vietnam refuses to dismantle them.

North Vietnam has denied that the SA-2 missiles came down from the North since the cease-fire, saying the Vietcong have had such missiles in the far northern area of the country for some time.

The United States claimed that its photo-reconnaissance showed that Hanoi slipped the Soviet-made missiles into the South after the Jan. 28 cease-fire. It asked the International Commission of Control and Supervision to investigate.

Canada and Indonesia voted to send an investigating team to Khesanh, where the Americans said the missiles were installed. But Poland and Hungary, the Communist members of the ICCS, voted against it. The commission can only act unanimously.

Poland and Hungary were said to have argued that a photo-reconnaissance of the Vietcong-controlled area by

See VIETNAM, A5, Co. 1

### VIETNAM, From A1

U.S. or South Vietnamese aircraft would amount to a violation of the cease-fire.

American military sources said a planeload of U.S. servicemen headed home was sent back to their billets at Tan-Sonnhut air base. It was the first day there had been no American withdrawal flight out of Saigon since the cease-fire began Jan. 28.

North Vietnam's Col. Tin said the United States, North and South Vietnam and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government each expressed its view on the prisoner exchange issue at a three-hour meeting of the Joint Military Commission Wednesday.

Tin said grave problems concerning the observation of the cease-fire and the implementation of the Paris agreement remained and that little of concrete value was accomplished at the meeting.

He said the U.S. side did not say anything about slowing its troop withdrawals.

In another move, the Vietcong claimed that four members of its delegation to the Joint Military Commission were killed in an ambush by South Vietnamese troops on Sunday. A statement made by the Vietcong's Giai Phong press agency, monitored in Hong Kong, said the ambush was a premeditated act of the Saigon administration and had seriously sabotaged the implementation of the Paris peace agreement.

The statement broadcast by Radio Hanoi said that after a military delegation of the Vietcong had set a rendezvous point near the central town of Dalat with the South Vietnamese authorities, the Saigon administration "sent a civil guard company to lay ambush." It said two other Vietcong officers were wounded.

Meanwhile, the ICCS halted all helicopter flights in Vietnam following three shooting incidents within 24 hours.

The ban on peacekeeping

flights was taken unilaterally Wednesday by Canadian Maj. Gen. Duncan McAlpine, chairman of the military commission of the four-nation cease-fire force.

All flights were forbidden unless specifically authorized by McAlpine. It is to remain in force indefinitely.

Canadian cease-fire officials said the decision was taken following a report that the U.S. pilot of one of the helicopters was wounded today. He was hit on a flight from Danang. Aboard the helicopter were a Canadian and an Indonesian colonel.

The copilot took over the controls of the U.S. helicopter, which carried the new white rectangular markings of the ICCS and landed it safely in Danang.

The other attacks against helicopters took place in the Central Highlands Tuesday and northeast of Saigon Wednesday. Officials said all of the attacks were from small arms fire.

In the Central Highlands, a helicopter painted with the ICCS markings, was hit while carrying eight cease-fire officials from Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland who had been on an inspection tour. No one was injured.

The third incident involved a courier helicopter flying from Bienhoa air base to a district headquarters on the coast. The helicopter was fired at but not hit.

A request will be made to the Joint Military Commission for assurances on the safety of the international ceasefire force, officials said. Until this is forthcoming ICCS teams will remain at their bases, they said.

The general's initiative came a day after a team of Canadian Red Cross officials decided to pull out of Vietnam because, they said, they were just wasting time. The Canadians had waited in a Saigon hotel for three weeks for approval to inspect prisoner-of-war camps as set out under the Paris agreement.