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U.S. Admits Truce Broken By So. Vietnam

Examiner News Services

SAIGON — The United States indirectly acknowledged yesterday that the Saigon government had been violating the Vietnam cease-fire agreement and said it is taking the initiative in reversing the level of violence.

Maj. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward, senior U.S. representative on the Joint Military Commission, introduced for consideration by South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong a draft joint appeal for endorsement by the four parties calling for an end to the bloodshed.

It will be taken up tomorrow at a meeting of the leaders of the four delegations.

A spokesman for the U.S. delegation indicated that Woodward's action and reported compromises on other issues was in response to charges by the North Vietnam and the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government that the United States was concerning itself only with provisions of the agreement regarding American war prisoners and ignoring other elements.

The Communist delegations contended that it was the United States' responsibility to see that all provisions of the agreement were carried out, right down to proper accommodations for the delegations and adequate security to safeguard against violent demonstrations against North Vietnamese and PRG representatives.

Demonstrations last Sunday in Hue and Da Nang that injured eight North Vietnamese and other alleged injustices caused the Communists to delay the re-

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lease of 136 American prisoners last Tuesday.

Apparently because of compromises, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong have notified the United States they will release prisoners in Hanoi today and tomorrow.

The U.S. spokesman said that the intensity of fighting had decreased since the four parties endorsed a joint appeal two weeks ago calling on the high commands of the warring Vietnamese to "promptly issue orders . . . to completely end hostilities throughout South Vietnam."

"We want to carry this further," the U.S. spokesman said, "to renew the principal provisions of Article 2 of the cease-fire protocol."

Article 2 says that until regulations are issued by the Joint Military Commission, all forces shall remain in place and there shall be no major redeployments or movements that would extend area of control or result in contact between opposing armed forces.

Article 2 also prohibits shelling attacks, bombing and strafing by airplanes, armed patrols into areas controlled by opposing

armed forces and terrorism or reprisals.

While charging numerous violations by the Communists, U.S. officials privately concede that the South Vietnamese also have violated the agreement.

Meanwhile, a Canadian Red Cross team which arrived three weeks ago to examine American and Vietnamese prison camps left in disgust, blaming the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese for sabotaging their mission.

The 12-member Canadian team never left Saigon because of haggling in the military commission and its subcommission on captured persons, which Maj. Gen. Arthur E. Wrinch (ret.) said demands "by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

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