

## Canadian Asserts Saigon Fails To Protect Vietcong Truce Aides

by Charles Mohr

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Saigon, South Vietnam, Wednesday, March 7 - A Canadian

wenesday, March 7—A Canadian source reported yesterday that the South Vietnamese authorities had refused in many cases to guarantee the safety of Vietcong officers who wanted to come in from Communist base areas to become delegates to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission.

This was one more obstacle to the smooth working of the Vietnam cease-fire agreement, the source said.

The headquarters of the commission, which is vested with the responsibility of peace-keeping in Vietnam, remained virtually paralyzed yesterday for the second day in a row because of an unresolved dispute over the exchange of Vietnamese war prisoners, and there was no sign of a break in the impasse.

Communist delegates did not

attend a meeting scheduled yesterday

yesterday by the commission's subcommission on prisoner exchanges, and have said that they will boycott most commission meetings for the time being because Saigon has scaled down the number of Communist prisoners it was willing to free in the next prisoner exchange.

A regular meeting of the commission is scheduled for today, but the North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegates have not indicated that they will meet with the American and South Vietnamese delegates.

The controversy over how Vietcong delegates should be permitted to travel to Joint Military Commission team sites was explained by an officer of the International Commission

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of Control Supervision, which is made up of Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland.

The officer, a Canadian who asked not to be identified, said that the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government had attempted to make arrangements so that its men could go directly from Vietcong areas in rural South Vietnam to seven regional and 26 subregional peace-keeping team sites of the Joint Military Commission.

### Change at One Site

In one case, involving the regional team at Phan Thiet, the Government finally permitted this, and a full Vietcong delegation is present there. In other cases agreement has not been reached and this is one major reason that Vietcong representation on the commission teams is far below the authorized number, the source said.

"In some cases the South Vietnamese have implied they would shoot any Vietcong officers who attempted to come into Government areas," said the source. "In the My Tho area they flatly refused to guarantee the other side's safety."

It was learned that in some cases the Vietcong had agreed to being picked up by helicopter, but that the South Vietnamese had refused to agree to the proposed pickup sites. It was believed that Saigon might have been reluctant to concede that the site proposed was in a zone of Vietcong control.

"The Vietcong, in turn, have now become reluctant to give locations for fear the Government will attack those locations," the source said.

### Killings Charged

The Vietcong press agency recently charged that some Communist delegates attempting to reach a Joint Military Commission site at Dalat had been killed by Government forces.

Partly because of this dispute there are only about 220 Vietcong representatives of the Joint Military Commission at their posts, instead of the 375 authorized.

A majority of the Vietcong delegates now on duty arrived either from Paris or from the town of Loc Ninh, which even the Government concedes is under Vietcong control.

The small number of Vietcong representatives on duty is one reason the organizational machinery envisioned in the Paris agreement on ending the war is virtually moribund.

The International Commission of Control and Supervision, for instance, feels its own regional and subregional teams cannot function unless full teams of the Joint Military Commission are in place in the same areas, and this is not the case over much of South Vietnam.

An American source conceded that such a controversy had existed for some time, but blamed the Vietcong. He said that Saigon feared that the Provisional Revolutionary Government was trying to "extend its areas of control" by naming pickup sites in "contested areas."

The Canadian source said that in some cases the Communists had indicated they would prefer to have their delegates simply walk into military commission headquarters, but had now come to feel they would be attacked in such cases.

Col. Bui Tin, an official of the North Vietnamese delegation to the Joint Military Commission, said Monday in an interview that his side would boycott further meetings of the commission until Saigon made concessions in the controversy over the exchange of Vietnamese prisoners of war.

Yesterday, however, the North Vietnamese and Vietcong did attend a subcommission meeting on procedures. An official American source said most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of proposals for giving the Communist delegates better transportation within South Vietnam and to and from Hanoi. He said the discussions were "inconclusive."

### Some Procedural Accord

He also disclosed that on Monday the chief delegates had agreed on several procedural questions, which had resulted from Communist complaints about poor treatment of their delegations in South Vietnam.

Among the points was a statement that each party in its area of control "shall do its utmost to insure maximum safety" for Joint Military Commission personnel and would protect headquarters, property, mail and signal facilities.

The right of delegations to contact each other and the control commission was also ensured. The delegates were further authorized to contact "diplomatic agencies, local authorities, suppliers, medical organizations and transportation companies."

This was evidently meant to help meet complaints of the Communists that they had been denied privileges, immunities and access rights. It seemed probable that American pressure on the Saigon Government was partly responsible for the development.

### Vietnamese Meet in Paris

PARIS, March 6 (AP)—Vietcong and Saigon officials held their eighth meeting today to discuss the procedure for political negotiations between them. A Saigon spokesman said they agreed to keep their talks secret until arrangements for the full-fledged negotiations are completed. The full-fledged negotiations will deal with organization of a National Council for National Reconciliation and Concord to be established under the cease-fire agreement.