

Saigon Calls for Talks in Field To Halt the Sporadic Fighting

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 9 (Reuters)—South Vietnam proposed today that field commanders should sit down and talk to end the sporadic fighting that has marred the Vietnam cease-fire and, according to Saigon's figures, has claimed more than 15,000 lives.

The appeal came at a meeting of the four-power Joint Military Commission, made up of the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Vietcong.

A South Vietnamese military spokesman said the proposal drew no response from the two Communist parties, who maintained that a new appeal would serve no purpose.

The four parties have made unilateral appeals to their commanders to stop fighting, but these have had little effect, and there has been no appreciable decrease in the fighting.

The prisoner-of-war exchange between South Vietnam and the Vietcong and North Vietnam went ahead smoothly again today, with the release of Communist soldiers at Quang Tri, below the demilitarized zone.

A total of 1,000 were scheduled to be released, but three of them, according to a South Vietnamese spokesman, decided to remain in South Vietnam just as they were about to

board small boats to go north.

Meanwhile, the South Vietnamese announced an hour's reduction of the curfew for Saigon and neighboring Gia Dinh Province. A spokesman said that starting tomorrow, the curfew would run from midnight to 6 A.M. Previously it ran from 11 P.M. to 6 A.M.

The Vietcong delegate to today's meeting of the military commission sought permission for cameramen and photographers to monitor the withdrawal of United States troops and equipment from South Vietnam.

The South Vietnamese spokesman said this request would be strenuously opposed by South Vietnam, as it was the duty of the International Commission for control and supervision (I.C.C.S.) to administer withdrawal of foreign troops and equipment.

Newsmen who attempted to hear the North Vietnamese and Vietcong assessments of today's meeting were turned back by South Vietnamese military police, who would not allow them to talk to Communist officials in their compound.

The Vietcong and North Vietnamese had invited newsmen to a press conference today. The Saigon administration had told reporters they could meet with Communist officials tomorrow.