

Vietcong List 32 Americans To Be Freed

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Wednesday, March 14—The Vietcong last night turned over a list of 32 American prisoners slated to be released Friday at Gia Lam airport in Hanoi, an official United States spokesman announced.

These are in addition to 108 American prisoners, including one civilian, who will be released today in Hanoi by the North Vietnamese. The two exchanges mark the third of four scheduled rounds of American prisoner releases.

It was not immediately known, the United States spokesman said, how many of the 32 prisoners on the Vietcong list were military men and how many civilians.

Under the terms of the Paris peace agreement, the 32 on the Vietcong list and the 108 to be freed by the North Vietnamese should have been released by yesterday.

Communist P.O.W. Balks

In protest over the delay and in an effort to keep any similar problems from blocking the fourth and last release, the chief delegate to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, Maj. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward, halted on Monday the withdrawal of the remaining American troops from Vietnam. A United States spokesman said yesterday that the halt would remain in effect until all of the 140 prisoners in this exchange were back in American hands. The United States has sent

home about 70 per cent of the 23,500 American troops present here when the cease-fire went into effect at the end of January.

An exchange of 1,200 Vietnamese prisoners was interrupted yesterday at Loc Ninh near the Cambodian border when one Communist prisoner reportedly asked to stay behind rather than return to Communist control.

According to a South Vietnamese military spokesman, Lieut. Col. Le Tring Hien, an unnamed prisoner suddenly bolted toward members of the International Commission of Control and Supervision who were overseeing the exchange, but was grabbed by fellow Communist prisoners and beaten.

Colonel Hien said that South Vietnamese military police who were also supervising the exchange sought to help the prisoner but were similarly beaten.

There was no immediate word on whether the prisoner was returned to Communist hands or whether a protest would be lodged with the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

The release of the 1,200 prisoners yesterday at Loc Ninh, all of them Communist soldiers, marked the end of the second round of Vietnamese prisoner exchanges, Colonel Hien said. Altogether 5,796 prisoners were returned to the Communists and 1,004 were handed back to the Saigon Government in this second round.

However, 250 captives in Communist custody who were to have been turned over to the South Vietnamese this week at Tam Ky and Duc Pho on the central coast were not freed after the Vietcong asserted that Government attacks at the release sites made the exchanges impossible.

Government spokesmen denied that their troops had been fighting in the vicinity and said that the Communists were merely providing an excuse because they were not ready for the release.

The subcommission on captured personnel of the Joint Military Commission met twice again yesterday, but Colonel Hien said that there was no progress in arranging the third round of Vietnamese prisoner releases.

Prisoners From This Area

WASHINGTON, March 13 (UPI)—The Defense and State Departments made public today the following list of military prisoners from the New York-New Jersey area scheduled to be released by the Vietcong Friday in Hanoi:

ANTON, Chief Warrant Officer Francis Gene, 29 years old, Army, Willingboro, N. J.

ARCHER, Capt. Bruce Raymond, 30, Marine Corps, Rochester, N. Y., and Pensacola, Fla.

DALY, S. Sgt. James Alexander Jr., 25, Army, New York City.

ELBERT, Pvt. Frederick Louis Jr., 25, Marine Corps, Brentwood, L. I.

GUY, Col. Theodore Wilson, 43, Air Force, Tucson, Ariz., and Elmhurst, Queens.

THOMPSON, Maj. Floyd James, 39, Army, New Milford, N. J.