

U.S. Renews Withdrawal From Vietnam

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 14 (AP) — The United States temporarily resumed troop withdrawals from South Vietnam today to match the release of 108 American prisoners by North Vietnam, the American command announced.

Spokesmen said there were 6,900 American soldiers in South Vietnam as the withdrawal program got under way again. The withdrawals had been halted since Sunday while the United States awaited the prisoners release.

The Vietcong have announced that they will release 32 Americans in Hanoi Friday.

United States spokesmen said that by week's end this phase of both the prisoner release and the troop withdrawal would be complete. The Communists will have freed about three-fourths of the 585 Americans they acknowledged holding on Jan. 27, when the cease-fire was signed, while the United States will have withdrawn about 75 per cent of the 23,500 men then on duty in Vietnam.

Deadline Is March 28

The Communists still hold 146 American prisoners, who are to be returned by March 28, the deadline for the release of all prisoners under the cease-fire.

The United States delegation to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission has told the Communists that the final phase of American withdrawals will not begin until they turn over the list of the last group scheduled for release and fix the date.

At Clark Air Base in the Philippines, Adm. Noel A. M. Gayler, commander of United States forces in the Pacific, said the rate of withdrawals from Vietnam had been changed so "the last man coming out will exactly correspond with the last P.O.W. released."

Of the American troops still in Vietnam 825 are part of the United States delegation to the Military Commission and 150 are Marine guards attached to the embassy. The delegation is expected to remain for several days after the March 28 deadline to close out its business.

Korean Strength Falls

Under the crease-fire the Marine guards and 50 military attachés will be allowed to remain.

The strength of the South Korean force was reported to have fallen to less than 4,000 as a main group of its head-

quarters in Saigon returned to Seoul. The move officially ended eight years of South Korean involvement in the war. At its peak there were 50,000 South Korean troops.

Vietnamese prisoner exchanges, lagging behind schedule because of disputes, continued today, with hundreds

more of the Communists released at Quang Tri, just south of the demilitarized zone. The Saigon Government has released about half of the more than 26,000 Communist military prisoners it listed at the time of the cease-fire. The Vietcong have freed about two-fifths of the 5,000 they listed.