

# Vietcong Say U.S. Slips In Uninspected War Material

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By The Associated Press MAR 17 1973

SAIGON, South Vietnam, with expenditures and losses." March 16 — The Vietcong charged today that the United States was shipping war material into South Vietnam, bypassing the inspection required by the cease-fire agreement.

The Vietcong asked for an explanation and the United States delegation to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission said that it was preparing a reply.

Lieut. Gen. Tran Van Tra, the chief Vietcong delegate, made the accusation in a letter to the senior American representative, Maj. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward. The United States command said in a statement later:

"Ever since Jan. 28, the start of the cease-fire, we have been bringing in supplies both by air and sea on a one-for-one replacement basis in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The U.S. command's logistics section has been checking the expenditure with what is coming in to make sure it is a one-for-one basis. Everything that is brought in its equated

President Nixon accused North Vietnam of sending major shipments of troops and war material into South Vietnam, in violation of the cease-fire, and implied that the United States might resume bombing of such traffic if it was not stopped.

Pham Duong Hien, a Saigon Government spokesman, said today that those shipments were also threatening political negotiations between Saigon and the Vietcong, scheduled to open in Paris on Monday.

"According to many foreign sources," said General Tra's letter to General Woodward, "the United States has recently introduced on many occasions armaments, munitions and war material into South Vietnam. The military delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government considers this a violation of Article 7 of the agreement and Article 7 of the protocol."

He said that the opposition Socialist party in Japan had

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reported that United States munitions were shipped from Japan to Da Nang March 9 and 10 and that the United States would ship 9,000 tons more from Japan to Da Nang tomorrow and Sunday.

Article 7 of the agreement provides for replacement of destroyed, damaged or useless military equipment on a piece-by-piece basis, but says the shipment must be supervised by a joint military commission of South Vietnamese and Vietcong and by the International Commission of Control and Supervision.

This supervisory machinery has not been established. A spokesman for the United States delegation to the Military Commission said that the United States interprets Article 7 to allow such shipments in advance of the establishment of the inspection procedures.

"Otherwise all the Communist side would have to do would be to prevent establishment of the Two-Party Joint Military Commission and then we couldn't ship anything in," the spokesman said. "We're willing to let them inspect it but we will not make it contingent on their approving the procedure."

## U.S. Again Halts Pullout

SAIGON, March 16 (Reuters) — The United States today ordered a halt in further withdrawals of its troops from South Vietnam until it gets details about the last American prisoners of war still to be released by the Communists.

An American military spokesman said that more than 300 servicemen left today, completing the latest phase of the withdrawal, coinciding with the release in Hanoi of 32 prisoners. That in turn, ended the latest phase of the freeing of United States captives by North Vietnam and the Vietcong.

The 5,000 to 6,000 American soldiers remaining in Vietnam, are due to leave by March 28, by which date the last United States prisoners are scheduled to be freed. In previous exchanges, the United States twice halted withdrawals until it received assurances that its men would be released.

## Denied by the Pentagon

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 16— A Pentagon spokesman denied today that there had been any shipment of arms into South Vietnam since the cease-fire. He cited the statement made yesterday by Charles W. Bray 3d, the State Department

spokesman, that the United States would be happy to have representatives of the International Commission of Control and Supervision inspect the shipment of arms now on its way from Japan, which Mr. Bray said represented a one-for-one shipment of worn-out or damaged weapons, permitted under the agreement.