U.S. Protests Red Troop Moves

Saigon

The United States told the Communist delegations to the four-party Joint Military Commission today it has "clear and irrefutable" evidence that fresh war materials and substantial numbers of military personnel are being infiltrated into South Vietnam in violation of the peace agreement.

It was the first official protest made before the chiefs of delegations. Brigadier General John A. Wickham Jr., deputy chief of the U.S. delegation, termed the matter of "significant importance" and demanded an explanation.

The South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry charged this morning that North Vietnam was infiltrating 50,000 fresh troops, 300 tanks and hundreds of heavy guns into the South.

The Communists side in turn renewed charges of shipments by the U.S. of armaments, munitions and war materials for the Saigon government to the port of Da Nang.

The U.S. maintains that Da Nang is one of three points of legal entry designated by the Republic of

Vietnam for periodic replacement of war materials, allowed under terms of the peace agreement.

In other developments, sources in Saigon said the U.S. is considering proposing an extension of the joint military commission beyond its expiration date of March 28

The objective would be "to create a better atmosphere for a true and realistic cease-fire" and to accomplish many tasks left undone, one source said.

Such a proposal also might help the U.S. to maintain a forum for the charges that North Vietnam is infiltrating large numbers of troops and war materials southward.

The U.S. has been unhappy with the failure of the commission to implement a true cease-fire and to check the alleged North Vietnamese infiltration and other violations of the peace agreement. The military commission's failure also has hampered the work of the fournation International Commission on Control and Supervision, which also has been a disappointment thus

The Paris peace agreement provided that the four-party military commis-

sion would be dissolved within 60 days after signing of the agreement January 27. North Vietnam and the United States would pull out, and the military peacekeeping role would be taken up by a commission made up of representatives of the two opposing South Vietnamese parties — the Saigon government and the Viet Cong.

The International Control Commission, meanwhile, intervened to prevent a clash between Saigon military forces and Communist troops.

Officials of the four-nation peacekeeping commission said it had agreed to investigate charges by the South Vietnamese command and the U.S. that North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces have laid siege to two South Vietnamese camps at points

30 and 50 miles north of Saigon. Associated Press