

## Withdrawal Proviso

# Reds Offer to Free All POWs

### Saigon

North Vietnam and the Viet Cong said today they were prepared to begin releasing the last American POWs tomorrow in Hanoi provided the U.S. gets its troops out of Vietnam by March 28.

Communist spokesmen said the proposal was made to the U.S. delegation to the four-power Joint Military Commission and included a demand that 159 U.S. marine guards at the U.S. embassy in Saigon also leave Vietnam.

A meeting of the commission chiefs conferred today, but the communist proposal was not discussed in early stages of the meeting, a U.S. spokesman said.

### STATEMENT

The communists said they would not include in the POW release nine prisoners held in Laos—as demanded earlier this week by the U.S. as a condition for the troop pullout from south Vietnam.

“The question of military personnel captured in Laos in no way can be associated with the Paris agreement

and withdrawal of U.S. troops,” said Major General Le Quang Hoa, chief north Vietnamese delegate to the commission.

The meeting with foreign journalists was held at Camp Davis at Tan Son Nhut Airbase, where the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese delegations are housed.

The Viet Cong said its representatives turned over to the commission a list of 33 POWs it holds. It included an American and a South Korean Corporal who were not on the POW list issued in Paris.

### Others

A Viet Cong official said the list contained the names of “26 foreign military personnel and seven foreign civilians” who could go free Monday in Hanoi if the United States agreed to the Communist proposal on the troop withdrawal.

“We reserve the right to suspend return of captured military personnel and foreign civilians until the U.S. gives adequate assurances it will meet our withdrawal demand,” said Colonel Vo

Dong Giang, deputy chief of the Viet Cong’s Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) delegation.

Lt. Col. Bui Tin, spokesman for the North Vietnamese, said Hanoi also made a similar presentation to the commission and was prepared to begin releasing 107 American POWs Sunday in Hanoi.

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