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# Vietnam P.O.W. Snag Continues, but U.S. Aides Are

## Confident of Solution

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Monday, March 26—The dispute over the release of the last American prisoners of war remained deadlocked yesterday, but United States officials privately expressed confidence that it would be resolved by Wednesday's deadline for the final pullout of American troops.

The deadlock centers on the United States demand that nine American captives of the Pathet Lao in Laos be freed at the same time as the remaining 139 Americans held by the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese.

There was no meeting yesterday of the chief delegates to the Four-Party Joint Military Commission, but in another exchange of letters between the head delegates the United States repeated its demand for the release of the prisoners in Laos and the North Vietnamese once more rejected the demand as "beyond the jurisdiction of the Paris agreement," an official United States spokesman said.

In a related development, the final exchange of Vietnamese prisoners was interrupted yesterday when 210 Communist soldiers held by the South Vietnamese refused to board their aircraft and demanded to stay in the south under the Saigon Government. They were to have been flown from Bien Hoa air base near Saigon to Quang Tri Province in the northern part of South Vietnam for the release.

### Dispute Follows Letter

The Communist prisoners included a woman and the son she gave birth to in prison two years ago, the Saigon spokesman said. Although reports from the scene said the Government officials seemed surprised by the incident, the prisoners displayed prepared banners with anti-Communist slogans.

American officials appeared hopeful that the dispute over the nine prisoners in Laos would be resolved because they said they had long ago received assurances from the North Vietnamese that the Pathet Lao would free the men.

"The problem looks a lot worse than it really is," said one usually well-informed American official. He said there had been little difficulty until Thursday, when Brig. Gen. John A. Wickham Jr., the deputy chief of the American delegation to the Joint Military Commission, sent a letter to the North Vietnamese publicly and officially insisting that the North Vietnamese take responsibility for release of the Laos captives.

That letter upset the North Vietnamese, the official reasoned, because if they did take up the offer of American prisoners, it would appear that North Vietnam controlled the Pathet Lao, something Hanoi has never been willing to concede.

Lieut. Col Bui Tin, the North Vietnamese spokesman, seemed to confirm this view when he said that his delegation had in fact passed along assurances from the Pathet Lao that the prisoners would be freed. But Colonel Tin added that as a result of General Wickham's letter, he did not know where the matter now stood.

With the deadline for the final pullout of American troops and the release of the last prisoners on Wednesday, the 60th day after the ceasefire began, the need to resolve the impasse became increasingly urgent.

### Timetable Presented

In the exchange of letters yesterday, the North Vietnamese sent the United States delegation a timetable for the release of the remaining 107 prisoners they hold, proposing to free 10 on Tuesday and 67 on Wednesday at Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport.

The Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government proposed to free its last 32 American captives in a letter Sunday.

However, the North Vietnamese, like the Vietcong, linked the release of the prisoners to the pullout of 159 United States marine security guards whom the Americans intend to leave in Vietnam to protect the United States embassy and other official buildings.

In a move typical of the frictions and ill feelings that have characterized the working of the military commission, the North Vietnamese presented the letter at 2 A.M. yesterday. It had also proposed that the North Vietnamese begin withdrawing their military commission delegates yesterday, flying them back to Hanoi. Under the North Vietnamese schedule, all their 723 delegates would be out by Wednesday.

But the American delegation said that such plans for re-deploying commission personnel must first be discussed by

its chief delegates, according to the United States spokesman.

Despite the incident at Bien Hoa yesterday, where the Communist prisoners asked to be reclassified as "returnees" and be permitted to stay on in the South. The exchange of Vietnamese prisoners was considered officially "terminated," a Saigon military spokesman said.

Since the exchanges began, the Communists have handed over 4,956 Government soldiers and the South Vietnamese have

turned over 26,511 Communist prisoners. In a surprise move yesterday, the Provisional Revolutionary Government provided a list of 410 more South Vietnamese captives who apparently were just discovered and said they would be released today and tomorrow in Pleiku Province in central Vietnam.

### List of Men From Area

WASHINGTON, March 25 (AP) — Following is a list, as

made public by the Pentagon, of the American military prisoners from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to be released by North Vietnam:

CALLAGHAN, Capt. Peter A., Air Force, Freeport, L.I., captured June 21, 1972.  
CAMEROTA, Capt. Peter P., Air Force, Gibbstown, N.J.  
CERAK, Capt. John P., Air Force, Clayton,

N.J., Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., captured June 27, 1972.  
DINGEE, Capt. David B., Air Force, Old Greenwich, Conn., Homestead Air Force Base, Fla., captured June 27, 1972.  
FRASER, Capt. Kenneth Jr., Air Force, Brooklyn, N.Y., Selma, Ala., captured February 1972.  
LATELLA, Lieut. George F., Air Force, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
MAYALL, Lieut. William T., Air Force, Ovi-town, L.I., reported captured Dec. 24, 1972.

PADGETT, Maj. James P., Air Force, Cedar Key, Fla., Mattdale, N.Y., captured May 1972.  
RANDALL, Lieut. Robert L., Navy, Neptune, N.J.  
RUDLOFF, Lieut. Stephen A., Navy, Brooklyn, N.Y., Miramar, Calif.  
SIENICKI, Lieut. Theodore S., Air Force, Newark, N.J.  
WILSON, Capt. Hal K. III, Air Force, Hamburg, N.Y., reported captured by Hanoi, Dec. 20, 1972.