

## HANOI CONCLUDING A PHASE IN TRUCE

Military Delegation Plans  
to Quit South This Week

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Tuesday, March 27 — A North Vietnamese spokesman said last night that his country intended to withdraw its delegation to the four-party Joint Military Commission from South Vietnam by the end of the week.

The spokesman, Lieut. Col. Bui Tin, said in a telephone interview that, with the release of American prisoners of war and the withdrawal of the final contingent of American combat troops due to be completed by Thursday, the delegation then intended to leave.

The cease-fire accord signed Jan. 27 provided that both North Vietnam and the United States would withdraw from the Joint Military Commission within 60 days, the same period

in which the release of American prisoners and the removal of American combat troops from Vietnam were to be completed. The commission would then consist only of Saigon and Vietcong representatives.

Colonel Tin spoke several hours before the White House announced "final agreement" on completing the prisoner release and troop withdrawal by Thursday, or one day more than the 60 days.

However, he said he had heard on the Pathet Lao radio yesterday that the insurgents would free the seven American military prisoners and the two American civilians held in Laos. President Nixon had declared over the weekend that the last American troops would remain in South Vietnam until the United States received assurances from the North Vietnamese that the nine prisoners in Laos would be freed.

### Release Due in Hanoi

Colonel Tin also said that, according to his information, the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government would release today in Hanoi the last 32 American prisoners it holds and that the North Vietnamese

would free their remaining 107 captives tomorrow and Thursday.

These releases would parallel the pullout of the last American troops over the next three days, the colonel said.

The release of the last American prisoners and the arrangements for the final American withdrawal had been the subject of a dispute since last Thursday. The dispute was touched off by a letter from the deputy chief of the United States delegation to the military commission, Brig. Gen. John A. Wick-

ham Jr., which demanded that the prisoners in Laos be freed simultaneously with those held by the Communists in Vietnam.

The North Vietnamese rejected the demand, calling it "absurd" and saying it went beyond the terms of the Paris accord. Informed American officials said that the sending of the letter may have been a mistake, because it implied that the North Vietnamese had control over the Pathet Lao, something that has never been conceded.

Though Colonel Tin said that his information came from

the radio announcement, it appeared that the North Vietnamese had chosen this method to make known the prisoner release and to break the deadlock that had threatened the implementation of the peace agreement.

Of the remaining 6,200 American troops in Vietnam, 159 are marine guards, 825 are assigned to the military commission, 50 are listed as members of the military attache's office and the rest are regular military personnel to be pulled out under the peace agreement.