

# Civilian Prisoners Traded in Vietnam

## Saigon

The first exchange of civilian prisoners held by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (Viet Cong) and the Saigon government began today — two hours after the 90-day deadline set by the Paris cease-fire agreement expired.

A Saigon military spokesman said a planeload of about 50 civilian captives it had held left Bien Hoa air base north of Saigon for Communist-held Loc Ninh town, the release site near the Cambodian border.

In return the Saigon authorities were to receive 63 pro-Saigon civilians today at the same release site, 30 miles north of Saigon.

The exchanges went ahead without the presence of ob-

servers from the International Commission for Control and Supervision, who have witnessed every other prisoner release.

An ICCS spokesman said a team of eight ICCS officials — two each from Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland — was still waiting for clearance from the PRG to fly to Loc Ninh.

Reuters