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U.S. Group Visiting Hanoi Told of Shift of Graves

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 11 (AP)—The bodies of 20 Americans who died in captivity have been removed from Hanoi's municipal cemetery to a location about 35 miles away, in accordance with local tradition, a United States military group visiting Hanoi was told today.

A United States Embassy spokesman here said that North Vietnamese officials would not allow the visiting Americans to see the burial location during their five-hour stay in Hanoi, citing insufficient travel time.

The North Vietnamese also refused, the spokesman said, to discuss procedural matters for the return of the bodies, but promised to take up the matter at the next meeting of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission in Saigon on Tuesday.

Flight to Hanoi

Members of the commission flew to Hanoi this morning and returned to Tan Son Nhut air base here tonight. The commission—consisting of the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Vietcong—is charged with carrying out provisions of the Vietnam peace agreement that call for the return of the bodies of prisoners and an accounting of 1,300 Americans listed as missing in Indochina.

The chief of the United States delegation, Col. B. H. Russell, received no response when he posed a series of specific questions to the North Vietnamese authorities designed to speed the return of the Americans who died in captivity, as well as any Americans buried in North Vietnam, the spokesman at the embassy in Saigon reported. After a meeting in Hanoi the joint military mission visited the Van Den municipal cemetery about 10 miles from Gia Lam airfield.

'Alleged Gravesites'

"The alleged initial gravesites of 23 Americans were pointed out in six separate locations of the cemetery," the United States Embassy spokesman said. "The remains of all but three had been transferred, according to the North Vietnamese representative, in accordance with local tradition, to another location approximately 60 kilometers from Hanoi.

"The three graves which allegedly still had remains intact were marked by small headstones indicating the Vietnamese transliteration of their American names plus the American initials underneath and the date of their death. The markers were approximately 12 inches wide and protruded above ground about 18 inches."

'New' Proposal Offered

Also at the four-party meeting, the Vietcong proposed what they termed a new five-point proposal to bring about a true cease-fire.

Its main provisions were a withdrawal of the two sides to the positions they held before the cease-fire on Jan. 28; an appeal to field commanders to halt the shooting, selection of one region as a pilot area for carrying out the truce, full deployment of military observers in the field and a preventive program to detect and crush potential trouble before it became significant.

The plan was similar to a three-point proposal put forth two days ago by the Vietcong delegation to the two-party political negotiations in Paris. That proposal was immediately rejected by Saigon.

Cosmos 557 Launched

MOSCOW, May 11 (AP)—The Soviet Union launched another unmanned Cosmos satellite today, the 557th in the series, Tass reported. The Government press agency said it was sent into an earth orbit with a high point of 165 miles and a low point of 136 miles. Its inclination to the earth's Equator was 51.6 degrees and its initial orbit took 89.1 minutes.