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Berrigan NL 440

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. AP -- The Rev. Philip Berrigan and 10 other inmates transferred to the U.S. Medical Center will remain in Springfield as long as they're not eating," Charles Campbell, associate director of the federal facility said Thursday.

"Then they will be moved back to Danbury, Conn., or to some other institution," he said.

Father Berrigan and the other prisoners, who continued a hunger strike began at the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury last Friday, arrived in Springfield early Thursday aboard two chartered planes.

The antiwar priest and his brother, the Rev. Daniel Berrigan, are serving sentences on charges of destroying draft records in Cantonville, Md.

Campbell said he understood Daniel Berrigan, still in the Danbury facility, is not participating in the hunger strike, which was launched to protest the imprisonment of the Berrigans and other political prisoners."

Campbell, acting in the place of Dr. P. J. Ciccone, director, who is on vacation, said the new arrivals are subsisting on a diet of milk.

He said they were taken to 11 rooms in a medical wing and "are being controlled as a group and kept away from the others."

At Danbury, Philip Berrigan was placed in solitary confinement after distributing leaflets urging other inmates to join the hunger strike.

There is no punitive aspect" to the separate facilities, Campbell said. They are not acting violent. Right now they're just sitting and waiting."

The transfer was made, Campbell said, because "we handle people who are not eating by keeping them under medical supervision."

All of those participating in the hunger strike were not transferred," he said. "I had heard there were about 30 involved."

The others transferred besides Father Berrigan were identified by Campbell as Mitchell Snyder, Edward Gersh, John Phillips, Thomas Hosmer, John Bach, John Glick, David Malanet, William Ireland, John Haloran and Kevin Jones.

Glick and Philip Berrigan were named with seven others in a federal indictment charging conspiracy to kidnap presidential adviser Henry Kissinger and destroy certain federal facilities in Washington.

Meanwhile in Danbury, four others indicted in the alleged kidnap-bomb plot sharply criticized the transfers.

Sister Elizabeth McAlister, Eqbal Ahmed, and Anthony and Mary Scoblick met with Daniel Berrigan at the Federal Correctional Institution, then held a news conference. They were accompanied by Sister Jagues Egan, named as a coconspirator, and Paul Mayer, who has been dropped as a coconspirator in the case.

Ahmed called the transfer a "kidnaping." He said the separation of the defendants would make it very difficult to prepare their case.

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