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**Congressmen**

## Say Hanoi Is Thawing

Washington

Congressmen just back from Hanoi said yesterday they think North Vietnam wants to establish relations with the United States and other countries to gain independence from the Soviet Union and China.

The congressmen, who went to Hanoi to bring out remains of three Americans, quoted top leaders there as saying they want U.S. reconstruction aid, diplomatic recognition, trade and help in developing offshore oil.

But the congressmen said the Hanoi leaders listed those desires in the context of establishing world ties — not in any way, the congressmen said, as ransom for further accounting for Americans missing in the war.

"They wouldn't have given us the three bodies if that was true," said Representative G. V. Sonny Montgomery (Dem-Miss.), leader of the delegation. "We had already talked to them at Paris . . . and told them that chances for aid were not very good."

Montgomery, chairman, and three members of his Select House Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia met with officials in Hanoi for two days and then officials in Vientiane, Laos, to try to get an accounting of Americans missing in the war.

They took with them a message from President Ford saying "we are prepared to reciprocate gestures of good will."

Other congressmen making the trip were Representatives Benjamin A. Gilman (Rep-N.Y.), Paul N. McCloskey (Rep-Calif.) and Richard L. Ottinger (Dem-N.Y.).

Associated Press

LongeKversion, WXPpost, filed Indochina.