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VIETCONG APPEAL TO G.I.'S TO DESERT

In Paris, They Call on U.S. Troops to Stop Fighting

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, April 26 — The Vietcong today called on American soldiers in Vietnam to stop fighting or desert and added that some American soldiers were fighting in the Vietcong ranks.

The appeal to American soldiers was contained in a document read here at a news conference. The report of American soldiers fighting with the Vietcong was given by a Vietcong spokesman in commenting on the document, an "Order of the Day," issued by the command of the Vietcong military forces.

The fifth point of the five-point Order of the Day stated that "those U.S. servicemen — individuals or groups — who 'support the National Front for Liberation' were to be welcomed.

Questioned about that point, the spokesman, Duong Dinh Thao, of the Vietcong delegation to the peace talks here, indicated that "supporting" meant "fighting alongside." He added: "There are a number of American soldiers fighting in the ranks of the liberation army." Pressed to say how many Americans were doing so, Mr. Duong would only say "their number is limited, as yet." He went on to say that a greater number of American deserters were hiding in Vietnam "protected by the South Vietnamese population."

The five points of the the order of the day were presented as follows:

"In the present situation the commandant of the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces orders:

¶ "Not to attack those antiwar U.S. servicemen—individuals or groups—who demand repatriation, oppose orders of

the U.S. commanders and abstain from hostile actions against the People's Liberation Armed Forces, from supporting or coming to the rescue of the Saigon army, encroaching on the freedom, property and lives of the South Vietnamese people, interfering in their internal affairs, hindering their struggles against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique [President Nguyen Van Thieu, Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky and Premier Tran Thiem Khiem].

¶ "To give a proper treatment to those U.S. servicemen—individuals or groups—who in action refrain from opposing the People's Liberation Armed Forces, and those who carry with the—antiwar literature.

¶ "To stand ready to extend aid and protection to those antiwar U.S. servicemen who have to run away for their opposition to orders of operations, to harsh discipline and to the discriminatory policy in the army.

¶ "To welcome and give good treatment to those U.S. servicemen who cross over to the South Vietnam people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces; to stand ready to help them go home or seek asylum in another country if requested by them.

¶ "To welcome and to grant appropriate rewards to those U.S. servicemen—individuals or groups—who support the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam."

Word Is Sent Out

In reply to questions, the spokesman said that the Order of the Day, issued today, would go into effect immediately after receipt by each Vietcong unit. He said the American side would be informed of its contents by clandestine radio and tracts from South Vietnamese underground presses, adding with a smile: "And by agencies and newspapers such as represented at this news conference."

Asked whether antiwar literature would be considered sufficient proof of opposition to the war and provide the equivalent of a safe-conduct, Mr. Duong smiled again. He said, "American soldiers are in daily contact with the population; if they genuinely oppose the war, our population will know."

Mr. Duong, in reply to questions, said there were already American units the Vietcong would not attack "because we know they are against the war."

Case of Deserter Cited

As an instance of Communist help to a deserter, he cited the case of a sergeant, John M. Sweeney, Serial number 2 467 056. According to Mr. Duong, the 21-year-old soldier, on Feb. 22, 1969, defected to the Vietcong from the Third Battalion of the Ninth Regiment of the Third Marine Division somewhere on Route 9. Mr. Duong said the sergeant was helped to leave Sweden last Aug. 31 and later to transfer to the United States where he is now being prosecuted.

Questioned about the "appropriate reward" for deserters joining the Vietcong in fighting, the spokesman smiled once more: "The highest award is the great consideration in which they are held," he said.

Asked about the timing of the Order of the Day, Mr. Duong pointed to the increase in opposition to the war among the military, and notably mentioned last Saturday's veterans' demonstration in Washington, and mentioned fraggings, or attacks by soldiers on other soldiers.