

8 AMERICANS WELL IN VIETNAM CAMP

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Reports Reaching Saigon
Say 12 Foreigners Are
Detained in Highlands

NYTimes

SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 4 (UPI)—Reports reaching Saigon from the Central Highlands say that eight Americans and four other foreigners who were captured there during the Communist offensive in March are well and in a detention camp.

They reportedly have been permitted to write letters from their camp at Thanh An, in Pleiku Province, 230 miles north of here, but they do not know when they will be allowed to leave.

The reports said that the Americans included Paul Struharik, a former United States Embassy representative in Ban Me Thuot, and Jay Scarborough, a student. There are five American missionaries — Richard and Lillian Phillips, Betty Mitchell and John and Carolyn Miller. The eighth American was identified as the Millers' 6-year-old daughter, Luanne.

The other foreigners under detention were identified as two Canadian missionaries, Norman and Joan Johnson; an Australian radio technician, Peter Whitlock, and a Filipino, Enrique Tolentino, who had been engaged in community development work.

All were said to have been captured after Communist forces overran Ban Me Thuot, the capital of Darlac Province, in March.

Food Is Termed Adequate

They reportedly are being fed adequately, and no one was said to be losing weight. The adults have chores to do during the day such as carrying firewood for cooking, the reports said.

Milk is being provided for all those who wish it, particularly to Luanne Miller, the reports said.

They said the 12 persons' only complaints were boredom and anxiety for their families. All have been allowed to keep the possessions they managed to carry from Ban Me Thuot, including several copies of the Bible and a copy of the nineteen-thirties novel "Anthony Adverse," their only reading material.

A deck of cards provides gin rummy games, the reports said, while talk in the evening often revolves around the food the detainees intend to eat when they get out of Vietnam.

Most of those under detention have been in Vietnam for long stays. The missionaries worked with montagnard tribesmen in the Ban Me Thuot area and were preparing Bibles in the montagnard dialects. Mr. Struharik, an expert on the mountain tribespeople, is married to a montagnard woman who is now in Bangkok.

Doctor Writes From Da Nang

SAIGON, June 4 (Reuters)—The only American doctor who stayed in Da Nang after the Communist take-over has written to colleagues here that he is being paid for his hospital work in rice and the former government's piasters.

Dr. Thomas R. Hoskins of Morristown, N. J., has been in South Vietnam for almost two years. A bachelor, he was sent to the Quaker medical center in Quang Ngai by the American Friends Service Committee of Philadelphia after completing his internship.

Dr. Hoskins, who is 31 years old, wrote that he had stayed behind in Da Nang's German-Vietnamese hospital with four doctors of the previous South Vietnamese Government.

He said they had continued to work there until the end of May when they were "invited to leave the hospital" and go to work in the Da Nang general hospital. He said his name had been Vietnamized to Nguyen Van Tom.