

# Yanks Tell of Suffering in Viet Captivity

Los Angeles

Fourteen U.S. civilians released recently by Vietnamese Communists were kept under harsh living conditions by their captors and many suffered diseases "to the point of death," according to two of them who returned here.

Treatment of the captives, including seven missionaries, was much worse than the impression they gave the outside world when released October 30 in Bangkok, according to a church report obtained by the Los Angeles Times.

The paper said the Christian Church Ministry and Alliance, which sponsored five of the missionaries, will make public a report that says they suffered overcrowding, poor diet and an agonizing night walk through the jungle.

When first released the captives said little about their treatment because they were "euphoric" at being free, the church report said.

Two of the missionaries were interviewed by the Times as they were reunited with their four children in Yucaipa, (San Bernardino county).

Richard and Lillian Phillips, 45 and 44, said each captive lost 20 to 50 pounds on a meager diet of rice. Most became sick "to the point of death," said Mrs. Phillips.

Huge black ants "crawled all

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over us and bit us" during a forced night march through the jungle, she said. Sleeping often on the wet ground, and frequently deprived of privacy, the captives at one point were housed with a thousand other prisoners, many of them captured South Vietnamese

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army soldiers, in a camp that had just one three-hole latrine, Mrs. Phillips said.

But Mrs. Phillips said their treatment was normal "under the circumstances."

Associated Press

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