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Hanoi Seeks Ties, Aid, 4 on Hill Say

By Jim Adams

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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 North Vietnamese 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 Rep. G. V. Montgomery (D-Miss.), leader of the delegation. "We had already talked to them at Paris . . . and told them that chances for aid were not very good."

Four members of the House Select 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 congress members making the trip were Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.), Paul N. McCloskey (R-Calif.) and Richard L. Ottinger (D-N.Y.).

Montgomery said North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong talked about "peace and friendship with all nations including the United States" at a 45-minute meeting, and lower officials spelled out specific needs later.

Montgomery said the North Vietnamese have set up an agency to account for people missing after the war and promised to try to account for Americans as well as Vietnamese.

Meanwhile, Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) said he will leave Jan. 1 for a 20-day trip to South Asia and Vietnam as chairman of the Foreign Relations subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

He said he expects "to explore Vietnamese interests in normalized relations with the United States" and also will continue congressional efforts to get additional information about Americans missing in action.