

U.S. URGED TO PROBE TIGER CAGE PRISON

Washington

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In an 11-page letter, he urged Mr. Nixon to send task forces to Vietnam within 48 hours to "prevent further degradation and death."

Anderson, who visited Con Son as a member of a special House Committee that went to Vietnam, also asked Mr. Nixon to find out why conditions at the prison had escaped the attention of U.S. officials.

REQUESTS

In other developments surrounding the "tiger cage" prison:

• A House Government Operations Subcommittee urged a prompt and thorough U.S. investigation of Con Son and military prisons in Vietnam. Members said South Vietnam's treatment of prisoners could affect the way North Vietnam treats American prisoners.

• Representative Augustus F. Hawkins (Dem-Calif.), who joined Anderson in visiting Con Son, asked Mr. Nixon to support a "thorough inquiry" into all Vietnamese programs that receive American funds, including the prison program.

*Committee visited Con Son 2 July - see Gloria Emerson, NYTimes. 7 Jul.

• Robert N. Harm, 53, of Sacramento, a former employee of a U.S. firm in Vietnam who spent 11 months in a Vietnamese prison for alleged currency violations, told a news conference he had seen American prisoners beaten and one temporarily blinded when prison authorities threw lime in his face.

Anderson, former commander of the U.S. nuclear submarine Nautilus, wrote Mr. Nixon he feared for the lives of prisoners at Con Son.

SHACKLES

Last week he and Hawkins said 500 men, women and children are held in so-called "tiger-cages" shackled by iron bars that leave them paralyzed, beaten and sometimes forced to drink urine.

He told Mr. Nixon that medical teams should be dispatched quickly to Vietnam on a mercy mission, and another special task force should be sent to protect former Con Son prisoners who alerted the Congressmen to conditions at the prison. They should be presumed, Anderson said, to be in imminent danger of "beatings, imprisonment or death."

A third task force is needed, Anderson said, to look into complaints of many prisoners in the tiger cages that they were jailed without trial for participating in peace demonstrations.

Representative John E. Moss (Dem-Calif.), chairman of the House subcommittee that asked for an investigation at Con Son, said U.S. authorities should not rely only on South Vietnam's own investigation. "To rely on a government that condoned these practices is leaning on a rather weak reed," Moss said.

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