

PLEA TO PROTECT PRISONERS OF WAR IS ADOPTED IN U.N.

U.S. Resolution Approved 60-16 in Social Committee —Soviet Opposes It

MOVE IS AIMED AT HANOI

Adherence to 1949 Geneva Provisions on Inspection by Red Cross Urged

Text of resolution adopted in the U.N. is on Page 18.

By **KATHLEEN TELTSCH**
Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 1—A United States proposal aimed at getting protection for American war prisoners in Vietnam was approved today by a committee of the General Assembly.

The resolution, which 11 other countries sponsored with the United States, calls for regular inspection of prison camps and humane treatment of all war prisoners, without specifically mentioning Vietnam.

The proposal was approved 60 to 16, with 34 abstentions, by the assembly's Social Committee, whose membership includes all the members of the United Nations. It was opposed by the Soviet Union, Hungary, Algeria and some others, who termed it a pretext for diverting attention from American actions in Vietnam and accused the United States of grave abuses, including the slaying of civilians at Mylai.

[In Paris, the American delegate to the Vietnam peace talks, in a news conference charged that the Vietnamese Communist were demonstrating a "shameful attitude" toward American prisoners and refusing to negotiate.]

'Weighs on Conscience'

Final General Assembly approval of the resolution on prisoners is regarded as a formality, and Charles W. Yost, the United States delegate, said the decision demonstrated that "treatment of prisoners weighs on the conscience of the world."

He also reiterated United States concern for the 1,500 Americans estimated to be missing in Southeast Asia and spoke of the "positive evidence of the inhumanities to which

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PLEA FOR P.O.W.'S APPROVED IN U.N.

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The likely impact of the new resolution is viewed here as questionable since until now North Vietnam has refused to allow inspection of the prisoner camps by the Red Cross or any other humanitarian organization, as provided for under the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Red Cross authorities who have been in contact with Hanoi have indicated that they are not encouraged that North Vietnam will change its policy.

Hanoi has insisted that the prisoners are "war criminals" not entitled to the protection of the 1949 Geneva Convention, which lists in 143 articles the measures that should be taken for the treatment of prisoners — providing for their identification on capture, medical care and housing, repatriation of the sick and possibly those long held in captivity.

Thant Pleas Ignored

Hanoi has not indicated any interest either in the series of appeals from Secretary General Thant regarding war prisoners — the most recent one last week. The resolution specifically asks Mr. Thant to continue his efforts. The resolution was also modified by Hungary to ask Mr. Thant to work particularly to assist those captured while fighting aggression or in wars of liberation—a point favored by African members.

North Vietnam is one of the 127 nations that have accepted the convention. The United States has also stressed—and Mr. Yost repeated this today—that it is abiding by the Geneva regulations, giving access to its camps to the International Committee of the Red Cross and correcting an abuses reported by the inspection teams.

Allies of Hanoi have also insisted that Hanoi is abiding by the Geneva accords.

The United States proposal tended to overshadow the other resolutions discussed and approved today, which were all raised under the broad heading of "Respect for Human Rights in Armed Conflict." These included a proposal by Britain and 12 others that looks toward supplementing the Geneva conventions to take account of

internal conflicts such as the Biafra war and other new situations.

The International Committee of the Red Cross intends to hold a preliminary conference next May to discuss possible new regulations.

Without dissent, the committee approved a proposal by France and seven other countries suggesting that the United Nations prepare an international agreement to protect journalists on dangerous missions and provide them with a guaranteed identity document.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION.
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