

News From Hanoi On Missing GIs

Washington

The State Department said yesterday that "significant and new information" is contained in a list of 203 U.S. servicemen who are either missing in North Vietnam or being held as prisoners of war.

The information was compiled by the Hanoi government at the request of Prime Minister Olaf Palme of Sweden.

The Swedish government gave the information to the department and also, a spokesman said, sent mes-

sages directly to the affected families.

The spokesman said the families had written the Swedish government asking for its help in getting information. The government forwarded the requests on July 3 and got a reply several days ago.

Hanoi said 45 of the men were in camps in North Vietnam, 145 had never been captured in North Vietnam, four were reported dead and nine could not be identified because insufficient information had been furnished.

U.S. officials expressed regret that North Vietnam provided no information as to when or what caused the four deaths.

Department officials also reported they are confident that Christmas POW packages, delivered to Hanoi by the Soviet Union, have arrived.

"We continue to hope," one official said, "that North Vietnam will let all of the men receive their packages."

Associated Press