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Rogers Criticizes Hanoi on P.O.W. List

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 — Secretary of State William P. Rogers today angrily denounced the release by the North Vietnamese of a list of previously known prisoners of war as a "contemptible maneuver" designed to divert attention from what he said was their failure to comply with international law.

"The fact is they are maneuvering with these prisoners in a way that is inhumane," Mr. Rogers said. "They know the concern of the American people for these prisoners and they are diverting attention from their barbarism by this method."

Using the harshest language he has employed recently, the Secretary charged that the North Vietnamese had first raised the hopes of many American families by suggesting that this was a new list, and then dashed them by releasing the same names that had been supplied last summer to peace organizations.

He said that the issuance of such a list as official and final "obviously creates additional emotional problems for the families of those who are not on this list."

He noted that it was particularly difficult for the families of two prisoners whose names were not on the new list but had been previously described as dead on lists obtained by a peace group, the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

Mrs. Cora Weiss of the Bronx, cochairman of the group, has explained that the two additional men on the committee's list died when their planes crashed in North Vietnam and therefore have never been included by Hanoi on its lists of prisoners.

All but four of the names on the committee's list were published by The New York Times last June 26 and 27. The four other names were made public by Mrs. Weiss on Nov. 22.

Yesterday in Paris, the North

Says Release of Names, All Previously Known, Was a 'Maneuver'

Vietnamese turned over lists totaling 368 prisoners, 339 who are alive, 20 who have died in captivity and 9 who have been released, to representatives of Senators Edward M. Kennedy and J. W. Fulbright.

In reply to a question, Mr. Rogers declined to endorse a

List of P.O.W. Dead

Following, as made available by the United Press International, are the names of 20 American military pilots who died in captivity, according to a list of 368 American present and former prisoners made public Tuesday in Paris by the North Vietnamese. The State Department said it was unable to provide independent confirmation of the names. The home towns of the 20 men were not specified.

- ABBOTT, John, Comdr., 505134; captured April 20, 1966; died April 27, 1966.
- ATTERBERRY, Edwin Lee, Capt., FV3065473; captured Aug. 12, 1967; died May 18, 1969.
- BURDETT, Edward Burke, Col., 10188A; captured Nov. 18, 1967; died same day.
- CAMERON, Kenneth Robbins, Comdr., 554612; captured May 5, 1967; died Oct. 4, 1970.
- COBEIL, Earl Glenn, Capt., FR61453; captured Nov. 5, 1967; died same day.
- DENNING, Terry Arden, Lieut., 625395; captured July 19, 1966; died July 21, 1966.
- DIEHL, William Calvin, Maj., FR60982; captured Nov. 7, 1967; died next day.
- DODGE, Ward Kent, Maj., FR43924; captured July 5, 1967; died July 12, 1967.
- GRIFFIN, James L., Lieut. Comdr., 595955; captured May 19, 1967; died May 21, 1967.
- GRUBB, Wilmer Newlin, Capt., FV2211784; captured Jan. 26, 1966; died Feb. 4, 1966.
- HARTMAN, Richard D., Lieut. Comdr., 613595; captured July 21, 1967; died next day.
- NEWSOM, Benjamin Byrd, Maj., FR2217686; captured July 23, 1966; died July 26, 1966.
- PEMBERTON, Gene Thomas, Maj., FR26552; captured July 23, 1966; died next day.
- SCHMIDT, Norman, Maj., FR42819; captured Sept. 1, 1966; died Aug. 31, 1967.
- SIJAN, Lance Peter, First Lieut., 80654; captured Jan. 12, 1968; died Jan. 22, 1968.
- SMITH, Homer Leroy, Comdr., 521872; captured May 20, 1967; died May 21, 1967.
- STAMM, Ernest Albert, Comdr., 584755; captured Nov. 25, 1968; died Jan. 16, 1969.
- STORZ, Ronald Edward, Capt., 3057474; captured April 28, 1965; died April 23, 1970.
- WALTERS, Jack, Lieut., 666504; captured May 19, 1967; died next day.
- WESKAMP, Robert Larry, Capt., FV3152424; captured April 4, 1967; died same day.

proposal made last weekend by the Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, that the United States agree to withdraw all its troops from South Vietnam by a specific date in exchange for the release of all the American prisoners held in North Vietnam.

The secretary noted, however, that the United States had offered to negotiate the prisoner-of-war issue as a separate matter and to agree to the release of all prisoners held by both sides on a humanitarian basis. Some 35,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong prisoners are being held in South Vietnam.

"We've not received any response from the other side," he said, "so we've concluded that they are using the prisoner issue in a very patent and inhuman way to further the cause of their political ambitions."

Mr. Laird was also skeptical about the merits of a plan put forward by Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, who suggested that some 1,500 North Vietnamese prisoners be released unilaterally in South Vietnam in an effort to prompt a reciprocal release.

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Mr. Rogers said he doubted that "an appeal to their conscience would have much effect."

Asked for his assessment of the position assumed by the North Vietnamese this morning at the weekly session of the Paris peace talks, the secretary said he considered it "essentially the same" as previous proposals. The delegation said that if the United States would set a deadline for troops withdrawal, negotiations could begin.

He declined to read any special significance into the fact that the Hanoi delegate did not repeat the demand that the current Saigon Government be replaced by an interim coalition.

"We don't think it represents any change," he said, "and for that reason we're disappointed."