

# U.S. List of Missing Is Rejected at Paris Peace Talks

By HENRY GINIGER

PARIS, Jan. 14—David K. E. Bruce, United States delegate to the Paris peace talks, was ridiculed as "a public amuser" today after he tried to hand to the Communist side a list of 1534 American servicemen the Pentagon carries as missing in action in Southeast Asia. He said he wanted the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong "to provide any information on them."

Neither would receive the list and Mr. Bruce and his deputy, Philip Habib, proceeded to read off 156 names that were not on a list given to the Communists in December, 1969.

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, foreign minister in the Vietcong's provisional revolutionary government, reacted sharply. She accused Mr. Bruce of trying to sabotage the work of the Vietnam peace conference and said his action was the height of ridiculousness.

"I would like to ask the American delegate," she added, "if he came here to negotiate or to act as a public amuser?"

### Precondition Recalled

The 72-year-old diplomat had previously accused the Communist side of blocking negotiations by continued insistence on United States acceptance of preconditions: American agreement to withdraw completely and totally from Vietnam and removal of the present Saigon Government.

"Our concern for the men held as prisoners of war by your side is serious," Mr. Bruce declared. "It is serious in terms of these meetings, serious in terms of the concern of the American people, serious in terms of world opinion."

"It is time you recognized that. It is also to the point to express our concern in manner which is normal and appropriate in any meeting by offering you a list of the missing and asking you to provide any information you have on them."

### List Complete, Hanoi Says

But the North Vietnamese spokesman, Nguyen Than Le, insisted that the list released by Hanoi of 339 Americans was "complete and definitive." The Vietcong spokesman, Duong Dinh Thao, spoke of the difficult conditions under which his side was holding prisoners as a reason for not issuing a separate list.

Stephen Ledogar, the press spokesman for the American

on some of these men in addition to those it had already acknowledged as prisoners. He made it clear that the United States was not accepting the North Vietnamese list as final.

The Saigon delegation informed North Vietnam that on Jan. 24 it would release 40 sick and wounded North Vietnamese soldiers ranging in age from 18 to 39. Rubber boats will deliver the prisoners to the north bank of the Benhai River, which forms part of the border between North Vietnam and South Vietnam. This list was

placed on the table so that the other side had no opportunity to refuse to take it.

In the case of the American list, the American liaison officer attempted to hand over the list to the two Communist liaison officers, who would not take it.

In the case of the American list, the American liaison officer attempted to hand over the list to the two Communist liaison officers, who would not take it.

Xuan Thuy, the Hanoi delegate, indicated that those on

the list who wished to go to North Vietnam would be accepted, without explicitly acknowledging that North Vietnamese troops were operating in the south. One of the prisoners was reportedly captured in Cambodia.

### List Covers Up to Dec. 31

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—An Army spokesman said today that the list that Ambassador Bruce tried to hand over covered the period up to Dec. 31, 1970.