

APR 25 1971

POW Plan Gets Cold Response

SF Examiner + SF Chronicle
Associated Press

PARIS—(AP)—Two members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said they told North Vietnamese officials yesterday that if Hanoi released all American prisoners of war the U.S. Congress would adopt a resolution within two weeks to end the Vietnam war by the end of this year.

Reps. Benjamin S. Rosenthal and Lester L. Wolff, both Democrats of New York, spent more than two hours conferring with Nguyen Minh Vy, deputy leader of the North Vietnamese delegation at the Paris peace talks, and other Hanoi officials at the delegation's headquarters in suburban Choisy-Le-Roi.

Hanoi Position

"We told them repeatedly that if they sent out all the prisoners, the Congress within two weeks would adopt a resolution ending the war by the end of this year," Rosenthal told newsmen later.

In reply, he said, Vy merely reiterated the standard Hanoi position that all captured Americans would be sent home if and when the United States sets a date for the unconditional withdrawal of all its forces.

"I feel they simply don't understand the nature of the American government," Wolff commented.

Both congressmen conferred Friday with the chief U.S. negotiator at the talks, Ambassador David Bruce.

Prisoner Issues

They said their talk with Bruce convinced them the Nixon Administration "simply does not realize that the

prisoner issues would be resolved with the setting of a withdrawal date."

Wolff said, "If the Nixon Administration had as much concern for the prisoners as we do, then that concern could be evidenced by setting a withdrawal date."

The congressmen said Vy assured them that announcement of a withdrawal deadline would be followed by an immediate cease-fire between American and Communist forces and an agreement for the guaranteed safety of withdrawing American troops.