

NYTimes

1 Jun 71

"Tapes of the Hanoi broadcast [accepting Saigon offer to return 570 North Vietnamese prisoners] ... were played for the prisoners and they were specifically asked by [International] Red Cross officials whether they wished to go home."

1 Jun 71

Story does not say when the tapes were played but implies this was just prior to the questioning. Was the tape played in the presence of the Red Cross officials?

Alvin Shuster, Saigon

"United States and South Vietnamese briefing officers played tape recordings of the broadcasts to the prisoners, sources here said .... "

4 Jun 71

Story does not say when or where tapes were played.

Thomas J. Hamilton, Geneva

"International Red Cross officials [said] they questioned the prisoners in one day from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M., told them of Hanoi's radio broadcast ... and answered questions from the prisoners."

4 Jun 71

The prisoners numbered 660. The 15 hours of questioning averages out at 1-1/3 minutes per prisoner, including the mechanics of bringing in one prisoner at a time, answering his questions, if any, and, unless the officials worked in shifts, time out for meals.

Henry Giniger, Paris

"'Do you agree to being released in the north?' This was the question, put in French and immediately translated into Vietnamese, that Red Cross officials asked 660 times [29 May] to determine how many disabled Communist prisoners wanted to be released from prisons in South Vietnam and sent to North Vietnam. .... It was agreed in advance with the South Vietnam Government that the Red Cross delegates would limit themselves to the one question, to be answered yes or no when the prisoners were brought in, one at a time .... "

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Who provided the translators? What check was there on actual question asked?

Thomas J. Hamilton, Geneva

"Reporters traveling aboard the Upshur [with the 13 prisoners to be returned to North Vietnam] were not allowed to interview the captives."

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Alvin Shuster, Danang