

# Mrs. Binh Speaks Out

By Michael Goldsmith and David Mason

PARIS — (AP) — The Viet Cong has promised for the first time to identify all its U.S. war prisoners as soon as the United States sets a deadline for the total withdrawal of its troops from Vietnam.

The promise was given by the Viet Cong foreign minister, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, in an interview with the Associated Press Friday.

She also sharply criticized William J. Porter, newly-appointed chief U.S. negotiator at the Paris peace talks, for what she called the "unheard-of-savagery" of the pacification program he directed in South Vietnam.

Mrs. Binh declined during the 75-minute interview in her suburban residence to comment directly on President Nixon's attempt to improve U.S. relations with China.

## Accuses Nixon

But she said that insofar as Nixon wants to engage the Chinese leaders in a discussion of a settlement of the war, his forthcoming trip to



**MRS. N. T. BINH**  
More talk of POWS

—UPI Photo

Peking will be pointless.

She accused the Nixon administration of ignoring the seven-point peace plan she presented at the Paris talks July 1 and said outgoing U.S. negotiator David K. E. Bruce indulged in "time-wasting maneuvers" to avoid serious discussion of the plan.

The first of the seven points, which she said could be implemented separately, calls for a total U.S. withdrawal by Dec. 31, together with step-by-step release of military and civilian prisoners held by both sides.

Asked why the Viet Cong — unlike Hanoi — has never published a list of its American prisoners, Mrs. Binh replied: "If Mr. Nixon wants to settle the problem of the prisoners, he only needs to set a deadline for the withdrawal of his troops.

"Then he will have not only the list, he will have their liberation."

## List Promised

She was asked whether the Viet Cong intended to produce a list of the American prisoners as soon as a withdrawal date was announced.

"Yes, this is certain," she replied.

U.S. officials said their latest figures, now a month old, indicate that 591 American servicemen are missing in South Vietnam, many of them assumed to be held in the jungles along the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. The total includes a score of Americans who disappeared in Cambodia during the U.S. incursion there last year.

Through intelligence and other sources, the United States has firm information that eight or nine of the nearly 600 missing in action in South Vietnam were captured alive. Nothing is known of the fate of the rest.

Hanoi published a list last December of the 339 American prisoners it claims to hold. The United States lists 783 airmen missing over North Vietnam.

Mrs. Binh, 44, graceful in her green silk ao-dai, the flowing Vietnamese national dress, often broke into a smile as she groped for words in almost flawless French and spoke softly of her flowers and her children in Vietnam.

Her voice took on a hard

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# First Cong Pledge To Identify POWs

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edge when she turned to Porter, who is due to take over the U.S. delegation in late August.

Porter, until now ambassador to South Korea, served as deputy ambassador in Saigon from mid-1965 to early 1967 and was in charge of the pacification program seeking to eliminate the Viet Cong political "infrastructure."

"We know something about Mr. Porter," Mrs. Binh said. "He dealt with the pacification plan and political questions, and I can tell you that the Vietnamese people consider the pacification program to have been conducted with military and political means of unheard-of-savagery. This is what we know about Mr. Porter."

She was asked whether she held Porter personally responsible for any excesses of the pacification program.

#### Held Responsible

"What we know of Mr. Porter is that as long as he directed this policy he was responsible for it," she replied.

Bruce's replacement by Porter had little significance

for the peace talks, she added.

"What is important is the policy of President Nixon. For the moment, he is using all possible means to gain time."

To put an end to the war, Nixon needs only to give a "positive reply" to the seven-point plan, she said, adding in direct reference to the Peking trip:

"Mr. Nixon has no need to look elsewhere because the Paris conference exists and provides all the facilities needed for a political settlement of the South Vietnamese problem. The American government only has to make use of it.

"If Mr. Nixon really wants to solve the Vietnamese problem, he only has to take the Paris conference seriously. We don't see why he had to look for other means."

She asserted that the United States has given no reply whatever to the seven-point plan, and said, "we will continue asking for a reply."

In the last three weekly sessions of the peace talks, Bruce repeatedly asked — in vain — for clarification of the seven points.