

## Three Vietnam Veterans Plead For Raids on P.O.W. Camps

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Three soldiers told a House committee today of spending "agonizing" months chained inside jungle cages as prisoners of the Vietcong and voiced the hope that the United States would carry out more raids on Communist camps like last year's raid on a North Vietnamese prisoner of war camp.

Though that raid last November on the prison camp at Sontay failed to free any prisoners, the soldiers said that news of it probably reached some American prisoners. Such forays, they said, even if unsuccessful, would raise the prisoners' morale.

Although we didn't pick up any prisoners," one of the soldiers, M. Sgt. Daniel L. Pitzer, told a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee, "we did prove to the Vietcong that we are capable of it." Sergeant Pitzer spent four years in a prisoner of war camp.

All the prisoners at Sontay were gone when United States soldiers arrived there on a secret rescue attempt.

Sgt. First Class James E. Jackson, who was released by the Communists with

Sergeant Pitzer in 1967, also urged further rescue attempts. "A few camps I was in, there would have been no problem in taking over," he said.

"I believe the United States can do anything it wants to, once it decides to do it," he added.

Sergeants Jackson and Pitzer appeared at the request of the Army. But the subcommittee specifically requested the appearance of Capt. Issac Camacho, who escaped in 1965 when his captors, after unlocking his leg irons, left him unattended.

Captain Camacho said he thought the Army could have pinpointed his camp's location and rescued the other prisoners if it had reacted more quickly. "They were pretty surprised to see me," he said. He said he was certain that word of the Sontay raid had reached American prisoners and that it had raised their morale.

All three men said that their days in captivity had included hard labor and "re-education" sessions consisting of propaganda and physical abuse.