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# McGovern's Hopes on POW Issue

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Senator George McGovern (Dem-S.D.) said today that the release of American prisoners of war from North Vietnam may be possible without reaching agreement on the entire seven-point Communist peace plan.

He told a news conference that despite the apparent hardening of the Communists' position in the Paris peace talks Thursday it was his understanding from meetings with Communist leaders that a U.S. troop withdrawal and bombing halt in Vietnam would secure the release of American POWs.

McGovern, a presidential aspirant, met earlier with North Vietnamese and Viet Cong officials. He said they told him points of the package could be put into effect separately.

Point one calls for total withdrawal of American troops in South Vietnam by the end of this year. Point two demands the removal of President Nguyen Van Thieu from office.

The South Dakota legislator said it was his understanding, however, that the Communists draw a distinction between what is indispensable for settlement of the entire Vietnam question and what is needed to release U.S. prisoners.

Associated Press