

U. S. Demand

'Name Our Dead POWs'

Examiner News Services

PARIS — The United States asked the Vietnamese Communists today to supply information on the number of American prisoners known to be dead.

U.S. Ambassador William J. Porter made the request at the 131st session of the Vietnam peace talks.

"Surely you can provide without harm to yourselves information concerning those of our men you know to be dead," he said. "Are you disposed now to say how providing this kind of information could possibly harm you?"

Humane Treatment

Recalling last Monday's unanimous vote by the U.S. House of Representatives demanding humane treatment of American prisoners and immediate repatriation of the sick and wounded, Porter called on the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong to give the resolution "Your most careful consideration."

There was no immediate reaction from the Communist side.

Last December, the North Vietnamese issued a list of 339 prisoners they hold. They also included the names of 20 who had died. The United States feels the listings are short of reality.

About 1360 Americans are listed by Washington as missing in Southeast Asia, mostly in North Vietnam.

Red Offer

Porter ignored the standing Communist offer to begin freeing American POWs once the United States sets a definite date for withdrawing its troops from Indochina.

Before the start of today's talks both the deputy Hanoi and Viet Cong negotiators accused the United States of masterminding the unopposed re-election of South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu and said U.S. policies were aimed at forcing Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese.

Both Porter and Saigon negotiator Pham Dang Lam defended the elections and belittled the Communist military position in Vietnam.

Porter told the Viet Cong their political strength in Vietnam was dead.