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U.S. Asks Reds at Paris Talks For Data on Dead Prisoners

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PARIS, Oct. 7—William J. Porter, chief United States negotiator at the Vietnam peace talks here, today asked members of the Communist delegations for information about American prisoners known to be dead in Vietnam.

There was no response from the Communist side during this, the 131st plenary session of the conference, a session characterized by blunt exchanges.

Stephen Ledogar, the American spokesman, told newsmen that the latest Washington figures showed 1,618 American servicemen missing in Southeast Asia. He said that only a third of these men were believed to be still alive and that 339 were known to be held in Hanoi.

For the second straight week deputies sat in for Hanoi's chief negotiator, Xuan Thuy, and the chief Vietcong negotiator, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, indicating a calculated downgrading of the talks.

Hanoi's spokesman, Nguyen Thanh Le, told newsmen that a list of prisoners, showing 20 American dead, had been made

available last December. In response to repeated questions about the situation today, Mr. Le would say only that the December list was "complete."

He called the prisoner issue "evasive strategy," which, he said, had already been used by three American negotiators in Paris.

Last week, Mr. Porter pleaded for impartially verified "civilized treatment" of the American prisoners. In today's acrimonious debate he referred to a resolution passed unanimously by the House of Representatives last Monday calling for humane treatment of the prisoners and immediate repatriation of the sick and wounded.

"As you are constantly advancing your views on American opinion, I trust that you will give this unanimous resolution of the House of Representatives your most careful consideration," Mr. Porter said.

The Communist delegations charged that last Sunday's presidential elections in South Vietnam were an "odious farce" and restated their demands for the abandonment of President Nguyen Van Thieu by the United States and for the total withdrawal of American forces.

Mr. Porter denied that the elections were a farce. He said that the Communists had tried to disrupt the voting with threats, bombs and rockets, while claiming that the people were fiercely resisting the elections.