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# Allies in Vietnam Free Enemy POW

Saigon *SFChronicle*

American and South Vietnamese military authorities today freed a North Vietnamese prisoner of war in response to the release last week of an American sergeant held captive by the Viet Cong for over two years.

A spokesman for the United States mission said that a North Vietnamese army lieutenant was taken by helicopter to an enemy-controlled area and set free.

It was the same area about 60 miles north of Saigon where Sergeant John C. Sexton Jr., was set free and walked to freedom on Friday.

"The release was in response to indications that the enemy would welcome such a release at a given time and place," the spokesman said.

There was no assurance that the reciprocal action would lead to further releases of U. S. prisoners "but that is the goal towards which we are working," he added.

The motives behind the release of Sexton are still unclear but today's release seemed to show the Americans and South Vietnamese want to promote a man-for-man release of prisoners of war. This could have been based on information passed on by Sergeant Sexton.

*Reuters*