



S/Sgt. John Sexton, 23, freed by Viet Cong, is carried to a plane in Saigon for flight to U.S.

—AP Photo

Freed Sergeant POW On Flight From Saigon

SAIGON — (UPI) — A 23 year old Army sergeant freed after two years in Communist captivity left for the United States today, "anxious to get home."

S. Sgt. John Sexton Jr., 23, Warren, Mich., was flown in a military medical evacuation chopper from a hospital where he has been under treatment since Friday to the airport.

In a stretcher, he was put aboard a Starlifter jet for the

long flight from Saigon to Denver, with a brief stop at Travis AFB, Calif.

A congressman in Sexton's home state, meanwhile, announced plans for an investigation into a report that the Pentagon withheld for two years a letter written by Sexton seven days after his capture.

Pentagon Criticized

Rep. Lucien Nedzi said "there appears to have been

extreme callousness on the part of the Pentagon" in not releasing the letter.

"It's great to be back," Sexton said at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Air Base. "I'm anxious to get home."

Sexton is the 24th American prisoner released by the Communists in the Indochina war.

Sexton's right eye inflamed and a small scar was visible on his chin.

The injuries apparently were caused by shell fragments when his armored personnel carrier was ambushed Aug. 12, 1969, about 60 miles north of Saigon.

More exchanges

He was captured by the Viet Cong and, he has report-

ed, apparently moved across into neighboring Cambodia where he remained in captivity.

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Sexton last Friday walked into a South Vietnamese post at Loc Ninh, about 70 miles from where he was captured and five miles from the Cambodian frontier.

The United States, meanwhile, has told the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong that it will welcome additional prisoner of war exchanges like the one completed in Cambodia this week.

A message expressing the Americans' willingness to trade prisoners was carried back by a North Vietnamese Army lieutenant who was freed yesterday in exchange for the return of Sexton.

But American source here do not appear to be overly optimistic about additional POW releases in the near future.