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THE

HANOI SETS RULES ON P.O.W. PARCELS

Each to Be Limited to One
11-Pound Holiday Package
NYTimes

By SAM POPE BREWER

A committee on Vietnam prisoners announced yesterday that the North Vietnamese authorities had agreed to accept one 11-pound package and one greeting card for each American prisoner at Christmas.

Miss Barbara Webster, representing the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in Vietnam, said at a news conference she had been given the assurance Tuesday in Paris by the Hanoi delegation to the peace talks there.

The Christmas shipments have been customary since 1969, but there had been fear that the privilege might not be renewed. No information was available on a reported drop in mail from prisoners recently.

Miss Webster went to Paris Sunday, she said, at the suggestion of the North Vietnamese diplomats. She said the assurance on mail was given by Nguyen Minh By, acting chairman of the delegation.

She said the North Vietnamese had emphasized that contact must be only through the liaison committee.

Mail Report Unexplained

Miss Webster and the co-chairmen of the committee — Mrs. Cora Weiss and David Dellinger — all said they had been unable to find any reason for the recent drop in mail received here from prisoners. William N. Porter, head of the United States delegation in Paris, has said that letters are being received from only about 50 of the 339 acknowledged prisoners.

Mr. Dellinger said today that representatives of the committee had been unable to visit prisoners in North Vietnamese camps recently because of United States bombing raids in

the area. He said that because of the raids, prisoners had been taken from the camps to scattered points of confinement.

Each prisoner is entitled to receive one letter a month. The letters, Mrs. Weiss said, should be sent in care of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen detained in Vietnam, 365 West 42d Street, New York 10036.

The Christmas parcels, addressed directly to the prisoners, must be accompanied by an "authority card" from the United States Department of Defense. These cards can be obtained from the "casualty officer" in the Pentagon who has been in touch with the prisoner's family.

Accompanied by the authority card, the parcels—not exceeding 11 pounds—are to be sent to Hanoi from the local post office and marked for shipment via the Moscow Post Office. The normal route via San Francisco is not accepted by Hanoi. Shipment within the next few days is advised.

Only one package may be sent to each prisoner, from his nearest relative, the committee said.

Outside the Christmas season, each prisoner is entitled, in theory, to one six-pound parcel a month.

The news conference was held at the headquarters of Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers, at 310 West 43d Street.