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Holiday Mail Reveals Names of 18 U.S. P.O.W.'s

By **TERENCE SMITH**
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—The names of 18 American servicemen held captive by the Vietcong in South Vietnam—including one who had been officially listed as killed in action—were included in load Christmas mail turned over by the Communist delegations at the Paris peace talks yesterday. Sixteen of the men had not been heard from as prisoners previously.

The names were released today by Cora Weiss, co-chairman of the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, the peace group that served as a conduit for the letters.

It was the first written communication received from the men held in South Vietnam and the first Communist confirmation of their status as prisoners. Broadcasts of the voices of two of the men had previously been received in the West.

The letters from the 18 were among 1,001 letters from American P.O.W.'s brought back from Paris last night by the Rev.

Richard Fernandez, a member of the committee. They were turned over by the North Vietnamese and Vietcong representatives in Paris yesterday. It was the largest single delivery of P.O.W. mail in the war.

Mrs. Weiss said the letters were mailed to their addresses at midnight Tuesday in the main New York City postal branch.

The unexpected delivery of the letters—after a hiatus of several months—was criticized today by spokesmen at the State and Defense Departments. They accused the Vietnamese Communists of “playing with the emotions” of the families of the prisoners by first withholding the letters and then releasing them in bulk at Christmastime.

This reaction was denounced as “incredible” by Mrs. Weiss, who said that the delay in delivery had been caused by the recent heavy floods in North Vietnam and American bombing of military sites in North Vietnam which has accelerated sharply in the last few weeks.

“The lives of these men are

being endangered by the massive retaliatory bombing of the Nixon Administration,” she said in a telephone interview. “The probability is that Nixon will be killing these men, not the North Vietnamese.”

Mrs. Weiss said that the committee representatives who normally travel to Hanoi each month to receive the prisoners' letters had not been admitted since August, ostensibly because of the floods and bombing. She said that this and the heavy flow of letters at Christmas accounted for the sudden increase.

Frank Sieverts, special assistant for prisoner-of-war matters to the Under secretary of State, told newsmen at the department briefing today that a total of 499 letters had been received so far this year from the prisoners, not including the latest load. Some 2,700 were received last year.

Asked if the decrease was a result of the unsuccessful American attempt to extricate prisoners from the camp at Son Tay, North Vietnam, in November, 1970, Mr. Sieverts

in the South

said he had no evidence of that.

Mrs. Weiss said she had “no doubt” that the Son Tay raid had been a factor. She noted that no committee representatives had been permitted to visit the prisoners since the raid. They made frequent visits before it.

Mr. Sieverts said the Pentagon lists a total of 1,605 Americans as missing in action in Indochina. Of this total, 382 are listed as captured in North Vietnam, 82 in South Vietnam, and three in Laos.

North Vietnam has identified 343 Americans as captive in North Vietnam, but has not provided lists for of those held in South Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia.

The names, serial numbers and hometowns provided by Mrs. Weiss follow:

- Allwine, David Franklin, 527682075, Phoenix, Ariz.
- Anton, Frank Gene, W3155469, Willingboro, N. J.
- Anzaldúa, Jose Jesus Jr., Refugio, Tex.
- Baird, William Allen, RE11676757, Applecreek, Ohio.
- Branch, Michael Patrick, RA 15705109, Highland Heights, Ky.
- Chenoweth, Robert Preston, RA18956756, Portland, Ore.
- Daly, James Alexander, RA11815566, Brooklyn.
- Davis, Thomas James, US67 09430, Eufaula, Ala.
- Kavanaugh, Abel Larry, 2374098, Denver, Colorado.
- Kobashigawa, Tom, Honolulu.
- Kushner, Dr. Floyd Harold, 02320775, Danville, Va.
- Lewis, Robert III, US67128367, Houston, Long.
- Long, Julius Woolen, US67066484, Pulaski, Va.
- McMillion, Isiah, RA12880801, Quincy, Fla.
- Mehrer, Gustav A., US6544221, Omaha.
- Rayford, King David Jr., US54593659, Chicago.
- Riate, Alfonso Ray, 2135759, Bell Gardens, Calif.
- Youns, John A., RA16769512, Grays Lake, Ill.

Next Paris Session in Dec. 30

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Dec. 22 — The North Vietnamese and Vietcong delegations at the peace talks here announced today their acceptance of an American proposal to hold the next plenary session Dec. 30.

It will be the first full meeting since Dec. 9, when the American delegate, William J. Porter, proposed that the session that would ordinarily have been held the following week be put off to Dec. 23. He did so on the ground that the Communist side was not negotiating seriously. Later Mr. Porter extended the break to Dec. 30 by withdrawing his proposal to meet tomorrow.