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Meeting Sought

POW Wives Criticize Nixon

Washington

A national convention of wives and relatives of American prisoners of war adopted a strongly worded resolution here yesterday expressing their "extreme distress" at the failure of the Nixon administration to secure release of their men.

The resolution, adopted by a voice vote at a meeting of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, also charged that President Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy had "thus far failed to provide any results" toward freeing the 1573 men currently listed as captured or missing.

It called on the administration to "immediately adopt" a policy that will "insure an accounting of the missing men and the release of the prisoners of war, not just the withdrawal of combat troops."

MEETING

The meeting also selected three women, including two critics of the administration, to request a face-to-face meeting with Mr. Nixon within ten days to question him as to "what arrangements he has made and is making" to gain the release of the men.

Mrs. Stephen Hanson, the chairman of the league's board of directors, said she thought the changed attitude was a reaction, and our growing frustration, and our awareness that this is an election year."

Other wives put it more strongly. Mrs. James A. Mulligan Jr., the wife of a Navy captain shot down over North Vietnam six years ago, said she thought "disgust" was a better description of the wives' mood than "frustration."

FAILURE

"I think it has become obvious to most of the wives of the known prisoners that we must either compel Nixon to end this war by negotiation or go out and actively support another candidate who will," she said.

Also grating to many members, including some supporters of the administration, was the failure of the President to meet personally with relatives and answer their questions.

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