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Triangle Pact on P.O.W.'s

To the Editor:

Mutual distrust on the part of the United States and North Vietnam has no doubt been one of the causes of the failure of the Paris peace talks to get off dead center. In light of Senator McGovern's new declaration that a residual military force be retained in Indochina in order to insure the release of our prisoners of war, the following suggestion may aid in circumventing such distrust.

If a stalemate would develop (as seems probable, considering the history of the talks) concerning the exchange of the withdrawal of our residual forces for North Vietnam's release of the prisoners, a three-sided agreement could be entered into.

This would involve the United States, North Vietnam and a neutral nation. The prisoners could be sent to this neutral country, the identity of which would have to be agreed upon by the United States and North Vietnam. They would remain there until our residual forces were withdrawn, whereupon the prisoners would be sent home by this neutral nation. It is clear that if our troops were then not withdrawn, the prisoners would be returned to North Vietnam by the neutral government.

JAMES ROTH
Allentown, Pa., July 13, 1972