

Ramsey Clark Says POWs Are Healthy

From News Dispatches

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark said yesterday the health of 10 American prisoners of war he met in North Vietnam was "better than mine. And I am a healthy man."

Clark, who is flying back to the United States after spending two weeks in North Vietnam with an international group investigating alleged "U.S. crimes," made the remarks in an interview broadcast by Radio Hanoi.

Clark said he met the 10 U.S. prisoners outside Hanoi and "without any inhibition or restriction whatsoever," was given an opportunity to talk with them for more than two hours on any subject.

The Radio Hanoi broadcast, in which he said the prisoners were in good health, was in Clark's own voice. But Radio Hanoi also rebroadcast Friday an earlier interview with Clark, also in his own voice, and restored key parts of sentences which had been cut from the original broadcast.

The tape of the earlier interview, which was first broadcast Thursday, had apparently been carefully edited, because monitors in Hong Kong said it had not been evident from the flow of Clark's speech that part of what he said had been cut out.

In the Thursday interview,

Clark talked about the bombing of a leper hospital and a school. When this interview was rebroadcast Friday, it contained two sentences and two half-sentences cut out of the tape carried by Radio Hanoi Thursday.

One missing part said the school children were away on vacation at the time of the bombing and as a result none was injured. And in another missing part, Clark said he would not make a final judgment at this time on the actions of American pilots.

Radio Hanoi also broadcast comments by Clark which varied sharply from the partial transcript distributed Wednesday by Hanoi's official Vietnam News Agency.

In the recorded interview by Radio Hanoi, Clark talked about damage to Haiphong caused by U.S. bombing and said:

"We can be fortunate, I guess, that more people weren't killed. It's quite amazing when you look at the dimension of the destruction here, all of this area, that many, many people weren't killed . . ."

The Vietnam News Agency's version, as reported from Tokyo Wednesday, had Clark saying: "I guess that more people were killed. There are many, many people killed . . ."