

# Clark Praises Hanoi's Care of Yanks POWs

Examiner News Services

**RANGOON (Burma)** — Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark arrived early today from an inspection tour of North Vietnam but declined to make any statements about his visit other than to describe U.S. bombing of the country as "intolerable."

Clark, whose statements broadcast by Radio Hanoi have created controversy in the United States, was met by a consular official from the U.S. Embassy when he arrived in Rangoon for a one day stopover enroute home.

## POW Letters

He told newsmen that he was carrying letters and tape recordings from 10 American Prisoners of War for their families.

Aside from his brief reference to the bombing of North Vietnam, Clark told newsmen he would not make any formal statement about his visit at this time.

"I am a professional," Clark said. "I have a mass of material that I must go through before I say anything formal. I have a couple thousand feet of film and tapes that I must go through."

Yesterday, Clark said in Hanoi that the health of American Prisoners of War in North Vietnam is "better than mine — and I am a healthy man."

## Hanoi Broadcast

Clark made the remark in a speech later broadcast on Radio Hanoi. The broadcast in Clark's voice apparently carried the speech in full.

Clark said he was permitted to visit a U.S. prison camp.

"There, without any inhibition or restriction whatsoever, I was given an opportunity to talk with 10 prisoners for more than two hours on any subject of us chose," he said.

## Praised Conditions

Later in the day, Hanoi broadcast a report of the speech and a subsequent question-and-answer session. To a question concerning the POW's living conditions, the radio quoted Clark as saying, "They could not be better."

Clark, according to Radio Hanoi, said he was "particularly touched" by the hygienic conditions at the POW camp. He said U.S. pilots "have been given permanent medical and dental consultations."

During his stay, Clark said, "I have been afforded an unrestricted opportunity to talk freely, privately, with the leaders of your villages and cities and nation. I have been free to walk the streets of the cities where I wish to, to walk along the

paths in the villages and the paths on the tops of the dikes.

## End to Bombing

Clark said he traveled more than 600 miles through North Vietnamese villages, cities and provinces.

"There have been no efforts that I could detect to influence me or prejudice my judgment," he said. "I have been permitted to talk freely on any subject with any person."

The former Johnson Administration attorney general reiterated his previous statements calling for an end to U.S. bombing of North Vietnam.

Clark is visiting North Vietnam with a group sponsored by the International Committee of inquiry into U.S. Crimes in Indochina. The group is investigating alleged bombings of non-military targets.

## Mass for Berrigans

Clark attended a crowded special Mass yesterday in Hanoi for the Revs. Daniel and Philip Berrigan, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

The agency charged that the American activist priests "have been persecuted" by the U.S. government for their anti-war activities.

The North Vietnamese agency, said Clark was accompanied to the Mass by Sean MacBride, a former Irish foreign minister.

## Mitchell's Protest

Meantime, at Washington, former Attorney General John Mitchell called on Democratic president nominee George McGovern to repudiate publicly what Mitchell called Clark's "outrageous conduct" in Hanoi.

Mitchell based his demand on an interview in The Miami Herald last Oct. 3 quoting McGovern as saying Clark, whom Mitchell succeeded as attorney general, would be the perfect choice as successor to the late J. Edgar Hoover as head of the FBI.