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Eastland

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POW Care

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WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. James Eastland (D-Miss.), said today a study of the record offered little room for optimism about North Vietnam's treatment of American prisoners of war.

Eastland offered the assessment in releasing a 32-page study of Communist treatment of war prisoners during World War II, the Korean War and the French-Indochina war.

The study was prepared by Samuel Oglesby, foreign affairs analyst for the Library of Congress, for the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, which Eastland heads.

"If anything, the records of the Soviet treatment of POWs in World War II and the Chinese - North Korean treatment of POWs during the Korean War are even more grisly than the dismal record established by the Vietnamese Communists," Eastland said.

The senator said there was a "remarkable continuity" in the pattern of treatment of POWs revealed by the study.

This should not be surprising, he said, "because in the eyes of Communists everywhere POWs are not human beings but political pawns."