



AP Wirephoto

Minnie Lee Gartley (left), mother of a POW, and Olga Charles, wife of another POW, with Cora Weiss as they prepared to leave Kennedy airport.

Trip to Hanoi

POW Relatives Leave

New York

The mother of one American and the wife of another held prisoner by North Vietnam left for Hanoi last night accompanied by four peace activists to bring home three captives the Communist government has promised to release.

Cora Weiss, cochairman of the Committee for Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in Vietnam, said the group expects to reach Hanoi tomorrow and spend about two weeks in North Vietnam before bringing the men home.

Asked who was paying for the trip, her cochairman, David Dellinger, said it was underwritten by Anniversary Tours of Manhattan.

Another member of the escort team, the Rev. William Sloan Coffin Jr., a Yale University chaplain, told newsmen at Kennedy Airport

some Americans say "these people are being used for propaganda and they will return brainwashed."

But, he added, "We are not supporting Hanoi. We are against United States participation in a war between the Vietnamese."

Minnie Lee Gartley of Dunedin, Fla., mother of Navy Lieutenant Markham Gartley, was loaded down with presents for six other prisoners whose names were not on the list of those to be freed.

Asked whether she feared Government displeasure about her trip, she choked back tears and said: "I'm going ahead with my own instincts and my heart."

Olga Charles, 27, of San Diego, Calif., wife of Navy Lieutenant Norris Charles, was asked what presents she was taking along.

"I'll be the greatest present for my husband—

except for our daughter."

The 3-year-old Kersten Charles is staying behind with relatives in Tampa, Fla.

The third POW scheduled to be released is Air Force Major Edward K. Elias. Although a member of his family was invited to go to Hanoi, the family declined because of illness and State Department opposition.

The other member of the escort team is Princeton Professor Richard Falk.

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