



Associated Press

Mrs. Olga Charles, wife of Navy Lieut. (j.g.) Norris A. Charles, talking in Hanoi with Tran Van Tho, shown with his children. According to the caption with this official Hanoi photo, Mr. Tho's wife died in a U.S. raid.

P.O.W.'s Relax in Hanoi as They Wait Next Step

HANOI, North Vietnam, Sept. 21 (Agence France-Presse)—The bar of one of Hanoi's main hotels was the setting today for an unusual sight here: An American pilot casually drinking a beer.

Lieut. (j.g.) Mark L. Gartley of the Navy, one of the three United States pilots released from prison in North Vietnam last Sunday, was astride the bar stool in the hotel, the Hoabinh, a name that, suitably, means peace.

Lieutenant Gartley was not wearing the gray suit and white shirt that the North Vietnamese had provided for his release, but more casual wear—a gaily colored shirt and linen trousers.

Since their release, he and Lieut. (j.g.) Norris A. Charles of the Navy and Maj. Edward K. Elias of the Air Force have visited bombed areas in Hanoi and elsewhere in North Vietnam. Lieutenant Charles has also given up the con-

servative garb in favor of a short-sleeved shirt and plastic sandals.

Laos Stopover in Doubt

Lieutenant Charles sat in a big armchair, reading a magazine. Near him were some forms, printed in Chinese, whose presence could be taken as further evidence that the prisoners and Americans antiwar activists who are escorting them would leave North Vietnam by some route other than by way of Vientiane, Laos, as had been originally expected.

A reliable source in Vientiane said yesterday that the prisoners would be leaving Hanoi on Saturday on a Soviet airliner, but that the plane would not make its normal stopover at Vientiane. This, the source said, would prevent the United States Embassy from putting officials on the plane at Vientiane.

Cora Weiss, among the Americans who came here to accept the release of the prisoners and escort them home, indicated yesterday that the Americans might avoid going by way of Vientiane.

People in the hotel passed the two Navy lieutenants without paying any attention to them.

Women Go Shopping

Lieutenant Gartley's mother, Mrs. Minnie Lee Gartley, and Lieutenant Charles's wife, Olga, accompanied the American delegation. Today the women went shopping and visited a shop offering such things as hand-embroidered tablecloths and napkins.

The shop has a variety of items such as cigarette boxes that look like silver but were in fact, made of the wreckage of American planes shot down over North Vietnam.

There are also letter-openers inscribed with the number of planes that have been shot down and combs marked as having been made with raw material supplied courtesy of the United States Air Force.

The pilots and the two women attract a great deal of attention in the streets, but generally the Vietnamese accept them calmly. The American pilots seem to have aroused no feelings of hostility on the streets of Hanoi.