

SEP 23 1972
3 'Freed'

POWs Still

In Hanoi

SF Examiner
VIENTIANE (Laos) — (UPI) — Two American antiwar activists arrived in Vientiane today and said that three U.S. prisoners of war released by the North Vietnamese had remained behind in Hanoi along with their escorts although "they're very anxious to come home."

The Rev. Harry Bury and Marianne Hamilton were aboard a Russian Aeroflot airliner which had been expected to bring the POWs, their relatives and an antiwar group headed by antiwar activists Mrs. Cora Weiss and David Dellinger.

Bury and Miss Hamilton accompanied the antiwar group several days before returning alone today after completing their own series of meetings with North Vietnamese Catholics. They were unclear about the reasons why the POWs had not left Hanoi when expected.

Bury said that the antiwar group's delay in leaving Hanoi had been required by a series of demands made to President Nixon by the antiwar group. He said the group had been told that the planes would be delayed and a message

Nixon said they would not be released to the war zone.

Hamilton said she

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believed the prisoners would return regardless of whether Nixon replied to the antiwar group's telegram.

Bury said he had performed a "peace mass" for the POWs this morning and that they told him they were informed last night they would not be making the trip today.

"They gave no reason for the delay but they're very anxious to come home," Bury said.

U.S. diplomats and military officials were on hand to greet the POWs.

Control

The antiwar groups have clearly shown their apprehension that American officials would try to take control of the pilots once they arrived on neutral ground.

"I do not really know why they didn't return," Bury said. "It was a decision made by the Vietnamese. The prisoners are not fully released. They are in good health and spirits and are staying at the Hoa Binh hotel in Hanoi. But they are under protection."

Bury said why he thought the North Vietnamese might be delaying the POWs return, Bury said, "they are concerned with nothing more than stopping the war and they want the prisoners to see the destruction that has been caused by bombing."