

# 3 Freed POWs to China

TOKYO — (UPI) — Three U.S. pilots released by North Vietnam, left today by plane for Nanning, China, en route home via Peking and Moscow, Hanoi reports said.

They were reported to have told President Nixon they did not want to return home with U.S. military escorts.

The men, who were freed to an American antiwar group in Hanoi, originally were to have flown out via Vientiane, Laos, by a Soviet Aeroflot plane.

They failed to arrive on the scheduled flight and the antiwar group indicated they were afraid the U.S. military would take them into custody if the plane landed in Vientiane.

Erik Eriksson, Hanoi correspondent for the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation, reported from Hanoi the fliers would fly on to Peking tomorrow.

(In New York, the Committee of Liaison with the Families of American Servicemen Detained in

North Vietnam, said the men would arrive in New York Thursday evening.)

At the White House, press secretary Ronald Ziegler refused comment on the handling of the release.

He said there was absolutely no possibility the government would bring charges against any of the three for anything they may have done while in captivity.

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