

SEP 26 1972

SF Examiner

U.S., Russ In Huddle On POWs

MOSCOW — (AP) — U.S. and Soviet officials held talks today on complex diplomatic details surrounding the expected arrival here of three American pilots en route home from a North Vietnamese prison camp.

An American Embassy spokesman said "an effort will be made to contact the prisoners" when they arrive from Peking. "We will try to be of help to them," the spokesman said.

It was understood, however, that U.S. officials have no intention of putting pressure on the airmen while themselves to military custody.

An American official said if the pilots have only transit visas, and are treated like other airline passengers with such visas, they will probably be put up in a transient hotel until their departure Thursday, possibly precluding contact with American officials.

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Freed POWs Due In N.Y. Thursday

PEKING — (AP) — Three American servicemen released by North Vietnam arrived in Peking today, en route to Europe.

They flew in from Hanoi aboard a Chinese flight. Dressed in civilian clothes and in apparent good humor, they were immediately taken over by Chinese travel service personnel and driven in a bus 18 miles into Peking for the airport.

Foreign correspondents at the airport were prevented from speaking with them, except for snatches of conversation as they walked to the bus.

"This is out of our hands," said David Dellinger, head of an American peace group which is escorting the men home.

"I'm delighted to be here," said Navy Lt. j.g. Markham Gartley, grinning broadly. "But I didn't expect to be seeing Peking. I hope I have a chance to try some Peking duck."

The three looked like tourists as they came down the

steps of the plane. They were taken out by a side entrance, rather than through the main airline terminal, to avoid the newsmen.

Chinese reluctance to expose them to newsmen is believed to be inspired by hesitation to offend the U.S. government.

A group from the North Vietnamese Embassy was inside the airport terminal, but a spokesman said they had nothing to do with the flight.

"They're free now," he said. "They can do what they wish."

Vincent McGee, one of the peace group, said in New York the three pilots will fly into New York Thursday night.

McGee said he had been told by members of the group in Hanoi that the party would leave Moscow Thursday morning and make a stop in Copenhagen, where they will hold a news conference before flying on to Kennedy International Airport.