



PEACE ACTIVISTS REV. WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN, CORA WEISS MEET U.S. PILOTS IN HANOI

From left: Lt. Peter Callaghan, Lt. Greg Hanson, Lt. Richard Fulton, Comdr. Eugene Wilber, Lt. Donald Logan, Capt. George Rose and Capt. David Hoffman

—AP Photo

'Well Treated'

New POW Group Grins

By Peter Arnett

HANOI — (AP) — Seven American pilots, most of them shot down over North Vietnam this year, met with American peace activists yesterday.

The meeting came just one hour before the departure of the civilians for the United States via Peking, with the three pilots released nine days ago in Hanoi.

The captured pilots who met with the delegation were Capt. David Hoffman of San Diego, Calif.; Capt. George Allan Rose of Fayetteville, Ark.; Lt. Donald Karl Logan of Northridge, Calif.; Comdr. Eugene Wilber of Columbia Crossroads, Pa.; Lt. Richard Fulton of Mesa, Ariz.; Lt. Greg Hanson of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; and Lt. Peter Callaghan of Bellmore, N.Y.

The meeting took place in a downtown Hanoi building. The denim-clad POWs entered the room smiling broadly and shaking hands with Cora Weiss, David Dellinger, the Rev. William Sloane Coffin and Prof. Richard Falk.

Western and Vietnamese cameramen were permitted to film the first five minutes of the meeting, which included introductions and beer drinking.

Capt. Hoffman was captured Dec. 30, 1971, and shared a prison cell with Lt. Norris Charles, one of the three released.

"Charles probably told you already, and you can see I am in good health," Hoffman said. "Food is as good as they can possibly make it. I suffered a broken arm when I landed, and I received excellent medical attention. I think we are in far more danger from our own aircraft dropping bombs than we are from the Vietnamese. I want to go home."

Asked if he had any message for his family, Hoffman said, "I miss them! I wish they could do something about this damn war."

Capt. Rose said he was shot down June 21. "The treatment is good and I am in good health and I have had no weight loss."

Lt. Logan said he was shot down east of Hanoi on July 5. "My treatment is much

more than I expected. I have had excellent medical care."

Comdr. Wilber, who has been in a prisoner camp for 4½ years, said, "Tell my family you have seen me. Use every facility to have them help you and the anti-war movement. Tell my wife I am working for it at this end."

"I have lived with a lot of people and the prisoners here have no complaints. When I say they want the war over, I speak for all the prisoners."

Lt. Fulton, who was shot down April 13, added: "I was surprised at the treatment the people took tremendous care of me. I have no complaints here. My only complaint is about the treatment that the U.S. military led me to expect. I was misled."

Asked if he had a message for his wife, Fulton said, "Tell her I love her. Tell her to pray for peace."

Lt. Hanson, who was in the plane with Fulton, said: "I have received more than adequate humane treatment." Asked if he had any message, the bachelor said,

"Say 'Hi' to Patty for me."

Lt. Callaghan said he was shot down June 21. He said, "My wife was nine months pregnant at the time. I have one letter but she did not mention if she'd had the baby. I may be a father and I may not be. I would like you to let her know that I'm interested."

Asked by Dellinger how he felt about the war, Callaghan said: "If there is ever a group of men duped by the government here we sit. We will be disappointed if McGovern does not win."

Asked for his message home, Callaghan said, "Tell my wife to keep plugging for George, and how's the baby?"

In Long Island, Callaghan's wife, Annette, 22, said the baby was born Sept. 17 — a girl, named Colleen, 6 pounds, 15 ounces.

"Please tell him she looks just like him," said Mrs. Callaghan.

She had written her husband telling him of the birth, she said, adding she would not comment "at this time" on her imprisoned husband's support of McGovern.