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# Spying Claims

## By Hanoi

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By Peter Arnett

PEKING — (AP) — The North Vietnamese claim that the United States has sent espionage equipment in packages mailed to prisoners of war, American anti-war activists reported here today.

The charges were made to Americans accompanying three American pilots on their way home after being released in Hanoi.

(In Washington, the Department of Defense issued a denial of the accusations,

Seven captured U.S. pilots say they're well treated

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calling them "too ridiculous to dignify by trying to address them in detail.")

The charge was first made broadly on the American delegation's second day in Hanoi, Sept. 17.

Hoang Tung, editor of the official Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan, said his government was "extremely upset by electronic devices hidden in packages regularly sent to prisoners."

The activist delegation said they asked for evidence.

This evidence, they assert, was displayed yesterday shortly before the group left for Peking and thence Moscow en route to the United States.

As described by the delegation, the nearest thing to an "electronic device" seemed to be material for a radio receiver.

This correspondent did not see the display.

I had accompanied the an-

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tiwar group from New York and had attended various meetings with the three released POWs and seven other POWs who were brought forward for interviews yesterday. I was not advised that materials for espionage were to be shown.

I was elsewhere in Hanoi when the display took place at the Hoa Binh Hotel.

Later I received photographs which the North Vietnamese had described as showing packages and contents sent to American prisoners.

From the pictures could be discerned three men alleged to be recipients — Charles Robert Tyler of Mesa, Ariz.; Edward Alan Brudno of Harrison, N.J., and William Robinson of Robersonville, N.C.

Corea Weiss, leader of the four-member American delegation which went to Hanoi, said: "I cannot believe that the families would knowingly endanger the welfare of their men and keep them from getting the longed-for stuff from home. It looks to us like an unmistakably professional job."

The North Vietnamese accompanied their charges with demands that the United States put "an end to this practice," which they said had encroached on North Vietnam's security.

"The responsible authorities of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have of course to take necessary steps to check that action."

Mrs Weiss' group described the following:

• An extra-large tube of Colgate toothpaste which when squeezed out revealed what Hanoi said was a re-

ceiving apparatus with a battery compartment and an ear piece.

Inside a candy bar were two pieces of 2-inch by 3-inch cellulose paper with instructions for writing messages that would not be detectable. The special paper was to be folded so that it made a sharp edge and the secret message was to be written with this edge, the North Vietnamese said. Then, by using a code word in a normal letter, the prisoner would tell the receiver of his letter that there was a special message which would be found by special processing of the paper.

• A peanut shell that had been hollowed out and contained a message and cans of Carnation milk and Maxwell House instant coffee which Hanoi said also had contained messages.

• A toy hippopotamus about 1½ inches long, sealed, which when opened showed an enclosure with raised writing on one side reading "use secret hiding place" and on the other, "hold together, stand up."

• A bar of Ivory soap with wrapper on but cut in half, each half gouged out and containing plastic bags full of capsules said by the North Vietnamese to be used for secret writing.

### 5 Deaths

One small cellulose sheet was said to have asked for verification of the deaths of five American fliers, as announced by the North Vietnamese, and information about any others known to be dead.

The same sheet asked recipients to provide any information about prisoners captured anywhere in Indochina.