

SEP 27 1972

## 3 FREED AIRMEN ARRIVE IN PEKING

Fliers and Escorts Ordered  
Not to Leave Hotel  
NYTimes

PEKING, Sept. 26 (Reuters) — The three American pilots released by North Vietnam arrived in Peking today in good spirits on their way home to the United States.

The airmen, released Sept. 17, are Maj. Edward K. Elias, 34 years old, of the Air Force; Lieut. (jg.) Norris A. Charles, 27, and Lieut. (jg.) Mark L. Gartley, 28, both of the Navy. They flew to Peking in a Chinese airliner after having spent the night in the Chinese city of Nanning, close to the North Vietnamese border.

The three pilots and the United States antiwar group accompanying them tonight found themselves the only guests in Peking's Chienmen Hotel and under orders not to leave the building.

They plan to leave Peking early tomorrow on a scheduled flight to the Soviet Union and from there to make their way back to the United States.

### No Visitors or Calls

No one was allowed to enter the hotel and telephone calls to them were not permitted. Chinese officials denied all knowledge of the pilots' presence in Peking and diplomats said that the Chinese appeared embarrassed to be involved in a matter concerning North Vietnam and the United States.

The diplomats said that the Chinese wanted as little publicity as possible over the group's transit through China.

With the three airmen today was an antiwar group, the Committee for Liaison with Families of American Servicemen Detained in Vietnam, which flew to Hanoi to escort the flyers home.

It was originally believed that the pilots would fly home through Vientiane, Laos, but there have been reports that American officials there intended to try to make the men fly home on an Air Force plane. It was understood here that the Americans were taking the longer route home to avoid contact with American officials.

### Access Sought in Moscow

MOSCOW, Sept. 26 (Reuters) — United States officials said tonight that American diplomats would try to meet the three pilots freed by North Vietnam when they arrive here tomorrow.

The United States Embassy conferred today with Soviet authorities about access to the airmen, who are expected on a connecting flight from the eastern Siberian city of Irkutsk tomorrow afternoon after flying there from China.

An embassy spokesman said that "the question of access as far as I know has not been resolved." Other officials could not immediately be reached. The pilots are expected to leave here Thursday morning for Copenhagen, Denmark, a spokesman said.

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

Special to The New York Times

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 26 — What amounted to a dispute among antiwar groups became evident here today over the publicly announced travel plans of the American peace delegation escorting the three prisoners from Hanoi.

Antiwar leaders here and a spokesman for the Committee of Liaison With Families of American Servicemen Detained in Vietnam, the peace group in charge of the pilots' return, declared today that final travel plans would not be completed until the prisoners arrived in Moscow tomorrow night.

At least one antiwar figure was privately critical of the decision, announced in Hanoi by Mrs. Cora Weiss, co-chairman of the group, to fly directly to Copenhagen Thursday instead of Stockholm as previously arranged before going on to New York.

Antiwar groups here and the North Vietnamese delegation in Sweden are known to strongly favor Sweden, whose Government has long opposed the Vietnam war, as the final stopover point in Western Europe.

The dispute centers on the wish of the antiwar groups to hold an undisturbed news conference with the pilots in Western Europe before their return to the United States, where opponents of the war expect American officials to take custody of the men.

Diplomatic sources here said that the Swedish Government had given assurances that it would not permit any United States representatives to approach the pilots without the expressed approval of at least one of the men. The antiwar groups are said to be concerned about the possibility that one pilot, Maj. Edward K. Elias, would willingly go along with an official United States request.

Mrs. Weiss, who has said she was in a hurry to return the pilots to the United States, apparently selected Copenhagen for the intermediate stop because of an earlier flight schedule. The Committee of

Liaison's representative here was attempting to charter a plane today to speed the pilots return through Stockholm and eliminate a flight to Copenhagen.

Meanwhile, a representative of the United States embassy in Stockholm disputed a report in The New York Times today that Sweden had refused an embassy request to board the pilots' plane after it landed in Stockholm, if it does. No such formal request was ever filed, the diplomat said.