

Los Angeles Rules Aid Unit For P.O.W.'s a Noncharity

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 27 (UPI)—VIVA, the group that distributes prisoner of war bracelets, is not a charitable organization, the city Social Service Commission ruled yesterday.

The organization gives out bracelets bearing the names of American military men held prisoner by the North Vietnamese and uses the money gathered, it says, to call attention to their plight and bring pressure on Hanoi by public opinion.

Originally taking its name from Victory in Vietnam, the group now says its initials stand for "voices in a vital America."

The commission upheld a ruling by the city Social Service Department that VIVA is not eligible to obtain a charity information card.