

SEP 28 1972

SFChronicle

An Angry Exchange Over POWs

Moscow

An anti-war activist escorting three American pilots home from North Vietnam accused U.S. diplomats yesterday of indifference to the prisoners' plight and told one official to "shut up and listen."

The angry exchange occurred at Moscow's Shremet-yevo airport while the pilots waited for a flight to Copenhagen.

The Rev. William Sheane Coffin of Yale University approached Adolph Dubs, deputy U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, just after the official finished talking with two of the pilots.

The Rev. Mr. Coffin warned Dubs against "interfering," adding, "you don't know what the conditions are."

A North Vietnamese diplomat listened attentively nearby.

The Rev. Mr. Coffin told Dubs "you are so indifferent to the plight of those pilots in North Vietnam, and so blatantly..."

Dubs cut him off.

"How dare you," the diplomat said loudly.

"Oh, come off it, the Rev. Mr. Coffin snapped. "Shut up and listen to me for a change. It's quite clear who's using whom at this time."

"Don't address me in those terms," Dubs retorted as he stepped back. "Just don't address me in those terms."

United Press