

### 3 Freed Pilots Appeal to U.S. to End the War

Examiner News Services

**COPENHAGEN** — Three American pilots released from North Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camps by Hanoi appealed to the American people today to end the war so that other prisoners can go home.

The pilots appeared at a news conference at a stop-over in Copenhagen enroute to New York from Moscow, where one of the antiwar activists escorting the POWs accused American diplomats of indifference to the prisoners' plight and told one U.S. official to "shut up and listen."

"My belief is if the war is ended, the other prisoners of war will be released too," said Navy Lt. (j.g.) Norris Charles of San Diego.

"I will do all in my power to bring them home. I call upon the American people to help me."

The pilots, their relatives and escorts were seated on a platform behind a long table with refreshments at the air-

port. The tone was brisk and businesslike during the first stopover at a western city.

#### Responsibility

Charles, however, made his antiwar plea in an emotional voice.

"I asked myself, who is responsible? It is you, the American people. If you want to end the war you can do it. I have great faith in the American people. I call upon you to help me bring the prisoners home," he said.

Charles was released 10 days ago along with Navy Lt. (j.g.) Markam Gartley of Dunedin, Fla., and Air Force Maj. Edward Elias of Valdosta, Ga., to members of an American antiwar group which arrived in Denmark with them.

At the Copenhagen news conference, the freed men declined to endorse a presidential candidate by name.

Asked by newsmen if actress Jane Fonda had reported accurately that American prisoners of war

avored the election of Sen. George McGovern as president, Gartley replied that the actress was "not qualified to speak for the opinions of the prisoners of war."

#### Issued Unclear

Discussing his own feelings about the American presidential race, Gartley said: "I've been away from the States for a very long time and not all the issues are clear to me, but whichever policy will bring the men home the fastest is the one I can support the most."

Elias told the news conference he had "a lot of reading to do" before feeling fully competent to discuss American politics.

The three men arrived on a Soviet Aeroflot jetliner.

Unlike in the Soviet Union where the prisoners' antiwar chaperones fought name-calling battles with U.S. officials over who would be in charge of the men's return, contacts in Copenhagen between American diplomats and the group were brief and polite.

U.S. Charge D'Affaires Thomas Dunnegan offered

the men a medical evacuation plane which they declined. Elias told Dunnegan that the prisoners' decision to continue home on their own "is the best thing for all of us and the men we left behind."

#### It's Different

Elias, responding to a question on how it felt to be free, laughed quietly and said, "It's another reorganization." Then he added, looking grave, "It's different and it's good."

Charles, replying to the same question, said he was happy, but "I can't feel too free when I consider the men who are left in North Vietnam."

Asked if he felt he was being used for propaganda, as the U.S. government has charged, Gartley replied, "I feel no abuse of my rights at all." He said as long as he was quoted accurately he felt it was understandable that his statements might be used to fit any line of political argument.

Elias was echoed by the other pilots in saying no conditions had been placed on their release.

Charles told a newsmen that he did not expect to be going back on combat duty and the other two pilots nodded their heads in agreement.

#### You Adapt

Asked if he thought he would be in trouble with the U.S. military for his statements, Charles replied: "The military does not hold the truth against anybody."

Gartley, speaking of his long captivity, said "psychologically speaking you become adapted. The first six months are hard."

Then he said, a life goes on to a month - by - month or season - by - season scale instead of one from hour to hour or minute to minute.

Charles, describing his North Vietnamese captors, said he was "treated with a lot of kindness and a lot of generosity."

The three pilots arrived in Moscow last night from Peking. Among those seeing them off this morning from Moscow airport was Adolph Dubs, the American charge d'affaires.

In an encounter with Dubs, the Rev. William

Sloane Coffin, one of the escorts, told the diplomat, "You are so indifferent to the plight of those pilots in North Vietnam."

#### Secret Kits

Dubs, his face flushed, shot back at the Yale University chaplain, "How dare you."

The Rev. Coffin retorted, "Now shut up and you listen to me for a change."

Then the clergyman told Dubs, "It's clear who's using whom this time."

He referred to secret writing kits that the North Vietnamese claim were sent to U.S. war prisoners in North Vietnam by U.S. officials.

The Pentagon and POW relatives have denied that secret writing kits or any other types of espionage equipment have been sent to the prisoners.

With slow measured words, Dubs told the chaplain: "Don't address me in those terms. Just don't address me in those terms."

The exchange broke up with the clergyman telling Dubs, "get off your hind legs and come down off your high horse."