



ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION FOR RELEASED POW
Relatives embrace Navy Lt. Norris A. Charles
—AP Photo

Freed Black Pilot Says Hanoi 'Respects His Race'

NEW YORK — (UPI) — Navy Lt. (J.G.) Norris Charles, one of three POW freed by Hanoi, says the North Vietnamese respect black people and understand their problems.

Charles, interviewed yesterday by the black audio network, said he hopes "The American people will end this war any way they can."

"I feel great," he said. "My health is fine and I'm glad to be home."

He said that as a black he received the same treatment as all other American POWs. He added: "(The North Vietnamese) respect black people and can understand the problem we have is similar to the problem they have."

Asked whether he felt he was being "used" for propaganda purposes, Charles said: "People all over the world are being used. As long as we are honest and say what we mean and it's the truth, it can be used and I don't care how. The truth can always be used."

His wife, who accompanied him on the trip from Hanoi, told the radio service: "I'm very happy to be here . . . but I am very disappointed and disgusted with the U.S. government. Everyone all over the world has treated us so nice and it was very hard for us when we got here to even say hello to our families. Nevertheless we finally convinced them to let us have a few hours before we proceeded to San Diego."