

A Pledge by a Freed POW

San Diego

Navy Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Norris A. Charles said yesterday he thinks his fellow prisoners of war will be released by North Vietnam as soon as the war is over.

The 27-year-old reserve officer, under care at the Balboa Naval Hospital after his release from North Vietnam, pledged in a press conference to do "whatever it takes" to bring his fellow POW's home.

Charles was shot down over North Vietnam last December 30. He and two other American officers were released by North Vietnam and escorted home last week by anti-war spokesmen.

Charles appeared nervous and somewhat reserved as he stepped before the press conference lectern. His wife, Olga, and 3-year-old daughter, Kirstin, sat in a front-row seat.

BOMBING

Charles was one of the group of American prisoners of war to sign a recent statement calling for the United States to end the bombing of North Vietnam.

But, yesterday, he appeared reluctant to do more



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LT. NORRIS CHARLES
'Whatever it takes'

than cautiously suggest what his views are about this country's continued participation in the war in Vietnam.

"I feel that the war should be terminated and terminated to bring my fellow POW's home," he said.

Charles, a native of Tampa, Fla., said he will finish his tour of duty in the Navy and while he does he will read and study the issues about the war before mak-

ing his views known.

"I don't know the answer yet," he said, "but there must be a solution to all wars."

Charles described how he parachuted to earth the day he was captured. As he descended, he said, he saw people running toward him.

His first thought when he landed was to try to escape, but Charles said he soon thought better of that, turned and made the peace sign.

His captors treated him well, Charles said, both at the place he was captured and later in prison. He found the medical treatment to be adequate and said he believes other POW's received the same type of treatment.

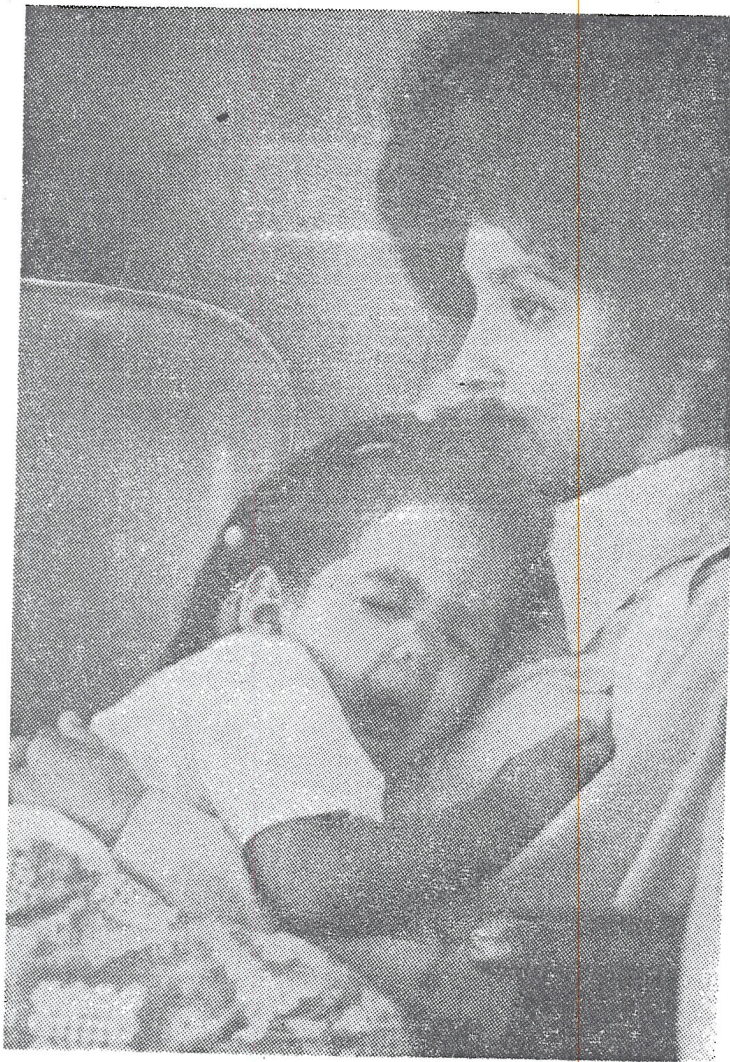
CAMP

Asked whether he thought it was possible that he might have been held in a "show camp," Charles replied, without elaboration, "No, don't think so."

Charles declared in an opening statement that the United States had problems when he left and has problems now, but he added:

"Believe me, America is a most beautiful country."

He said Americans don't



AP Wirephoto

Held by her mother, Olga, Lieutenant Norris Charles' daughter, Kirsten, 3, yawned through his press conference

realize many good things about their country and take them for granted. Besides his family, the young officer said, what he

missed most while he was a prisoner was his country. "I missed America," he said.

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