U.S. Civilian Held by Viet Cong

Washington

A Viet Cong broadcast has brought first word of the capture of an American civilian and the first report to his family in several years as to his whereabouts, the State Department said yesterday.

Spokesman Charles Bray said the civilian prisoner is Richard G. Waldhaus, one of 14 listed in a Viet Cong broadcast relayed by Radio Hanoi and monitored at Hong Kong.

Waldhaus, whose name was spelled "Waldheart" in some transcriptions of the radiocast, was listed as captured Aug. 4, 1971. Others on the broadcast list appeared to be servicemen.

Bray said the only information the State Department had about Waldhaus was that it issued a United States passport to him in 1969 for the purpose of his going to South Vietnam to study.

Associated Press.