

'Let's Wait and See'POW Kin Still Wary

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — The wives and children of the men who are being held prisoners in North Vietnam now are talking about the two things they consider inseparable — peace and politics.

"Isn't it strange," said Charlotte

Christian, whose husband has been a POW for seven years, "how all the wives are saying, even with the prospect of a cease-fire near, 'Let's wait and see.'

"Not one of them is trusting," she added in an interview, referring to the

approximately 21 women in this coastal town with its nearby naval base, whose husbands are among America's more than 1,500 prisoners or are missing in action.

Mrs. Christian, whose 32-year-old husband, Cmdr. Michael D. Christian, was shot down in April 1967, said:

"Even if the cease-fire is signed Tuesday, you won't find any one of us making plans for our husbands' homecoming. We just don't want to be let down any more. I'm sorry it has taken

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so long," she said. "Sorry we had to sit and wait until the end of President Nixon's term of office."

Mrs. Christian, a tall woman with short-cropped red hair and modishly clad in black blouse, houndstooth skirt and high black boots, added:

"I don't think Nixon needs this to be elected. But maybe he needs peace in order to be elected president with the greatest majority ever...

"But," she added, "if he can't pull it

(the cease-fire) off, he's going to have to come to my house and tell my children."

Only the oldest of their three children, 13-year-old Debbie, really remembers her father.

Mrs. Christian says she hasn't decided how she will vote in the presidential election.

"When I get into that booth to vote, I'll vote for whoever has helped the POWs the most. This may be selfish, but I feel the government has forced me into being selfish."