51 U.S. 1972

Civilians

Missing?

WASHINGTON — (AP) — U.S. officials say 51 American civilians missing or held prisoner in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are covered by the proposed Vietnam peace pact.

The nine-point plan calls for return of "all captured and detained personnel" with the pullout of U.S. troops following a cease-fire.

According to presidential adviser Henry Kissinger, this applies to civilians as well as to military prisoners. He says North Vietnam is responsible for accounting for and repatriation of prisoners and missing throughout Indochina.

The number of U.S. servicemen captured or missing in Indo-china totals around 1800, of whom 545 are believed captured.

Nearly all the 51 civilians are believed to have captured, though the communists have given little information about them.

Forty are listed as lost in South Vietnam, starting with three missionaries in 1962 and including 21 reported captured or missing during the Communists' 1968 Tet offensive.

Four American newsmen and a merchant seaman have been missing in Cambodia since 1970. A half-dozen U.S. civilians were reported captured or missing in Laos between 1963 and last month.