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Instructions For Gifts To POWs

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Cora Weiss, co-chairman of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, said she received a North Vietnamese message yesterday outlining a procedure for sending Christmas gifts to American prisoners of war this year.

Mrs. Weiss said the telephone message from an unidentified North Vietnamese spokesman was:

"On the occasion of Christmas and New Year's, each U.S. serviceman captured in North Vietnam will be allowed to receive a special parcel weighing up to 11 pounds, as they were permitted to receive last year. The packages must be sent by next of kin by post from Moscow. Packages sent by any other way will not be received.

"The servicemen may also receive a Christmas-New Year's card as well as their regular monthly letter from their families, and the cards may be sent by post or via the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, 385 W. 42nd street, New York, New York 10036."

Mrs. Weiss said routing

for the parcels and cards sent by the POWs' families is handled by the U.S. Post Office, which sends them via Geneva, Switzerland, and Moscow on their way to Hanoi by a special agreement established in 1966. She said that families sending these parcels and cards through this routing should address them with the serviceman's name, serial number and camp of detention to "Hanoi, D.R.V.N., via Moscow."

Associated Press