

56 Known

POWs Not On Lists

Associated Press

Washington

Fifty-six Americans known to have been prisoners of war in Southeast Asia remain unaccounted for by North Vietnam, the Pentagon said yesterday.

Defense Department spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim said an initial name-by-name analysis indicates that there were "56 men that we had previously carried on our list of prisoners of war that are not on either list" received from the North Vietnamese.

Officials said these men were known to have been alive in Communist prison camps at some point during the war.

LISTS

Two lists turned over to U.S. officials in Paris Saturday by the Communists identify 555 U.S. fighting men captured in North and South Vietnam and 55 others who died.

There also were no clues to the whereabouts of 1269 men listed as missing in Southeast Asia, including more than 300 lost in Laos during air attacks against supply routes.

"We don't have any fur-

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ther information about them at this point," Friedheim told newsmen. But he said a list of the missing and captured in Laos is expected shortly.

PARIS

"We're continuing to seek clarification on that through diplomatic channels" in Paris and also through the four-power joint military commission, he said.

The commission — composed of the United States, North and South Vietnam and the Viet Cong — will supervise the cease-fire during the first 60 days until the International Control Commission takes over.

Friedheim said the Laos list was expected despite the continued U.S. bombing of Communist supply lines in that country. "We don't see any connection there," he replied when asked if the bombing would jeopardize the release of POWs and an accounting of the missing.

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Senator Charles Percy (Rep-Ill.) said unless the Communists provide a full accounting of all Americans there will be "massive resistance" in Congress to any postwar reconstruction aid to North Vietnam.

In outlining terms of the peace agreement, presidential adviser Henry Kissinger had said the issue of economic aid would be discussed only after implementation of the agreement "is well advanced."

Friedheim reported that an analysis of the POW list provided by North Vietnam showed some discrepancies and variations with information previously known by the Pentagon.

The Defense Department had carried 591 Americans captive and 1334 missing — a total of 1925.

He said the total has now been revised upward to 1935 — including 555 Americans

awaiting release from prison camps in North and South Vietnam, 55 POWs who died, 56 prisoners still unaccounted for and 1269 now carried as missing. Asked about the ten-man difference, Friedheim said he was unable to explain it immediately.

The Pentagon had named only six men as prisoners in Laos, but 11 more were listed as missing there. Two of the six POWs showed up on a list as captured in North Vietnam, but none of the 311 MIAs were listed.

ROSTER

Officials believe a number of the 56 unaccounted-for POWs will turn up when the North Vietnamese provide the expected roster of men in Laos.

Friedheim also said he did not have a breakdown on the number of men previously listed as missing who turned up on the roster of 555 captives.

According to the Pentagon the 555 include 456 held by North Vietnam and 99 in the South.