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U.S. Pressing Questions on Missing GIs

Washington

U.S. officials "will be asking further questions" of the North Vietnamese diplomats about the whereabouts of 1327 American servicemen whose names fail to appear on prisoner lists supplied by the Communists, a Pentagon spokesman said yesterday.

Jerry W. Friedheim's statement at a briefing underscored U.S. intentions to keep pressing the North Vietnamese for information on missing Americans, including 308 servicemen believed to have been lost in Laos.

Friedheim echoed remarks made by Henry A. Kissinger, chief U.S. negotiator of the Vietnam cease-fire agreement and its prisoner provisions.

"We had expectations of learning more than that," Friedheim said of the list of only seven U.S. military flyers reported by the North Vietnamese Thursday as being captives in Laos.

The Pentagon spokesman said American officials do not connect the lack of more POW names with the continued U.S. bombing in Laos.

Counting lists turned over last Saturday when the cease-fire agreement was signed, the North Vietnamese have acknowledged holding 562 American servicemen in North Vietnam, South Vietnam and Laos.

Associated Press