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POW Propaganda Talks Won't Draw U.S. Charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Charges won't be filed against returning prisoners of war for making propaganda statements over Hanoi radio, but measures may be taken against any POW for actions against his comrades, the Pentagon says.

Pentagon spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim restated the policy during a question-and-answer session with a youth group on Thursday. He made clear his statements reflect the policy of Defense Secretary Elliot L. Richardson.

When a young questioner asked if the government con-

templates filing charges against any U.S. war prisoners for making statements over North Vietnamese radio, Friedheim said:

"No. We do not intend to bring charges. We know why some of their statements were made." He did not elaborate.

Later, Friedheim told a reporter that "it would have to be more than a statement on Hanoi radio" to bring government action against any returning POW.

However, Friedheim said the policy on radio statements does not rule out disciplinary action against POWs for "ratting on comrades" or stealing food from fellow prisoners.

Also, some returning war prisoners may bring legal action against other war prisoners, he indicated.