

Returning prisoners of war continued to arrive at Travis Air Base today. An additional 40 men arrived in two planeloads of 20 each. So far 60 POWs have returned to the U.S. via Travis and another two arrived [yesterday] at San Diego. Military officials at Clark Air Base in the Philippines said today that another 60 returnees will depart the base for Travis tomorrow morning, and officials at the base also said they are preparing to receive an additional 20 POWs from North Vietnam very soon. The returned POWs are reportedly being dispersed to military bases across the country almost as quickly as they arrive. The 40 who arrived at Travis today have already been sent to bases near their homes for family reunions, recuperation and debriefing.

One of the men who returned today, Navy Captain James Stockdale, said as he left the airplane at Travis, "The men who follow me down that ramp know what loyalty means, because they have been living on loyalty the past several years - loyalty to each other, loyalty to the military ethic, loyalty to our Commander-in-Chief. America, America, God shed his grace on thee."

But one of the men aboard the second plane to arrive at Travis today declined to get off when it landed. A military spokesman said that the man, Army private Ferdinand Rodriguez, said, "I'm sorry, I just don't want to get off. I don't feel well." *(over Air Force Colonel Robinson Risner and Marine Lt.-Col. John Dunn, both held as prisoners of war in North Vietnam for seven years, were the first two newly released men to meet officially with reporters. At a news conference at Clark Air Base today, Col. Risner and Lt.-Col. Dunn talked about some aspects of prison life, including the anti-war broadcasts that Hanoi attributed to several POWs when they were in captivity.

In reply to one reporter's questions, Col. Risner said, "As far as I know, every man who has been in prison in North Vietnam supports the President and his policy."

In August 1968*, Radio Hanoi attributed to Col. Risner a statement which said the United States should stop all bombing and other acts of war against North Vietnam, and withdraw all troops from South Vietnam. When Col. Risner was asked today about such statements he said, "We should consider the source of those statements. By this I mean the source from which they came. In other words, they were made from the prison in North Vietnam." When he was asked if he had made the statement attributed to him, Col. Risner said, "At no time during my imprisonment did I fail to support my President, my country, and my people."

Richard Waldhaus, the American civilian released by the Provisional Revolutionary Government who chose to stay in Saigon rather than return to the United States, is being escorted by an official of the U.S. Information Agency aboard a Pan-American flight which [arrived] in San Francisco at 4:30 this afternoon. The U.S. Embassy responsible for Mr. Waldhaus's departure from Saigon said in a statement that he

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