

SFChronicle FEB 28 1973

Russia Says Freed POWs Are Pawns

Moscow

The government newspaper Izvestia said Monday that Operation Homecoming is a brainwashing exercise that turns freed American prisoners of war into pawns for the Pentagon and the White House.

"Operation Homecoming became a two-stage brainwashing operation," Izvestia said. "The Pentagon brainwashes the prisoners and the prisoners brainwash the American public."

The attack on the Pentagon's handling of returning POWs pictured military men as making former prisoners and mouthpieces who parrot a White House line that Americans can and must take pride in the Vietnam war.

"If one puts aside the emotions and touching scenes of family reunions, one feels at once the directors' guiding hand," Izvestia said, "a giant propaganda and psychological campaign prepared by the Pentagon."

"One sees this kind of deal: We have left you your military ranks, paid your salaries for the years of im-

prisonment and will ensure you publicity that will come in handy in your career," the newspaper said. "For this you are asked to do only one thing—justify this war and start doing it at once, while they still remember you in this fast-moving American life." *United Press*