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## 'Absolutely' No Coaching Of POWs

### Washington

A Pentagon spokesman yesterday again rejected "absolutely" any suggestions that returning U.S. war prisoners have been coached to make statements supporting President Nixon's Vietnam war policies.

Major General Daniel James told a news briefing that "we have said we have not coached these people. They have said they haven't been coached."

The subject was raised by newsmen who noted criticisms that many of the returning POWs spoke in a similar vein, praising the U.S. war effort and expressing support of Mr. Nixon's Vietnam policies.

James acknowledged that "there is a lot of likeness in their reports."

But he said "it is normal that these expressions and the way they put things would be the same because they were together so long" in the prison compounds.

In denying that the prisoners were coached on what they should say publicly, James acknowledged that they had been advised to avoid any statements that might be prejudicial to the safety and well-being of men still being held by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

But James said the returned POWs had already agreed among themselves to avoid such topics until after all the POWs were returned safely.

Associated Press