

# 106 More POWs Due Soon

CLARK AIR BASE (Philippines) — (AP) — Operation Homecoming hospital jets took off this morning for Hanoi to pick up 106 more prisoners of war and two Thais and bring them back to a red-carpet welcome at this U.S. base.

Three giant C141 Starlifters lifted off shortly after 10 a.m. (6 p.m. yesterday PST). They were following a C130 Hercules advance plane that already had landed in Hanoi. Those aboard included Brig. Gen. Russel G. Ogan, 49, of Reading, Pa., director of the Pentagon's prisoners of war and missing in action affairs.

The C130 transport carried a 20-man advance party of medics, aircraft maintenance crews and interpre-

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# 106 More POWs to Be Freed by Hanoi

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ters to pave the way for the turnover of the POWs.

The giant C141s were to ferry back the second major group of released POWs freed by the North Vietnamese. The first of the C141s was scheduled to be back at Clark about 4:30 p.m. — 12:30 a.m. today PST.

## VC LIST

Tomorrow afternoon, a C141 will fly into Hanoi to pick up 30 more Americans, two West Germans and two Filipino prisoners being released by the Viet Cong, the U.S. military announced. They are expected back at Clark at 6:30 p.m. — (2:30 a.m. PST).

The best known of the POWs listed for return today is Navy Cmdr. Richard A. Stratton, 41, of Palo Alto, Calif., and Quincy, Mass. He allegedly confessed to dropping anti-personnel bombs on civilians and other "war crimes" at a Hanoi news conference on March 4, 1967, about three months after he was shot down.

Widely displayed photos of the conference showing Stratton's gaunt, stooped figure and haunted expression, became familiar to millions of Americans and others as a symbol of the plight of the American POWs.

## Others Named

Three prominent prisoners expected to be released today, since the accords call for those held longest to be

released first were not on the advance lists supplied by the Communists.

They are Army Maj. Floyd James Thompson, 39, of Ft. Bragg, N.C., longest held POW in American history—since March 26, 1964; Philip Manhard, 52, of McLean, Va., a senior diplomat who is the highest ranking U.S. civilian still in captivity; Navy Lt. Cmdr. John S. McCain III, of Orange Park, Fla., son of retired Adm. John S. McCain Jr., who as former commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific directed military operations against North Vietnam.

## Good Shape

Military officials expected the arriving POWs generally to be in as good shape as the 163 Americans released last month. On the plane to Clark, each man will receive American cigarettes, chewing gum and a "Halloween bag" of candy as well as their first contact in years with American women — the flight nurses on board.

The two groups of Americans to be released today and tomorrow will raise to 299 the number of American POWs released by the Communists since the signing of the peace agreement Jan. 27.

This will leave 295 Americans still in Communist hands, according to Communist figures.

The rest are scheduled to be released in two nearly equal increments, with the last release coming no later than March 28.