

P.O.W.'S PLANNED INCOME MANAGING

MAR 6 1973

Agreed at Camps to Set Up
Unit on Return to Handle

Books, Appearances

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 5—

Some of the senior American pilots agreed—while still prisoners of war in Hanoi—to set up a corporation to manage their income from publishing, speech-making and other public appearances upon their return, sources close to the prisoners have disclosed.

"It's something that's going to happen in the future," a senior Pentagon official confirmed today. He added, however, that no corporate documents had been drawn up.

Military sources said the concept apparently originated with the senior officers in the North Vietnamese prison camps, who talked about following the pattern first established 10 years ago by this country's astronauts.

Military officials here acknowledged that the pilots, far from being surprised by their warm welcome in the United States, knew while in captivity that their returned safety was—as one officer put it—"a big issue back here in the States."

"These people had their feet on the ground while in prison," the officer added. "They heard enough and knew enough," he said, to realize that there would be demands for books, speeches and endorsements.

Plans Not Complete

The only military requirement now being imposed on the returned prisoners, another officer said, is that they meet with the press at least once before signing any exclusive writing contracts. "Once these guys have talked," the source noted, "they're on their own."

"There's really nothing sinful in taking advantage of what's left," the officer said. "That's the way to play the game."

Specific details about the proposed corporation were impossible to obtain, military officers said, because the men themselves have not worked out final plans.

No official steps will be taken until all of them have been returned from Hanoi, the officers said, and none of the men will be granted discharges until then.

Another source noted that interest in the corporation was largely confined to the more senior officers who want to

continue their careers.

"This is a concept that goes far beyond just publications," he added. "The corporation is going to look out for all their interests—including the investment of back pay."

Significant Cash Assets

"There's going to be no attempt at exploitation," he said. "As part of their processing from prison, all of the men have been advised of the fact that people may want to make offers. Some of these gentlemen recognized that when they got out they would have significant cash assets. They just want to have some kind of mutual, cooperative venture."

One high-ranking Pentagon official acknowledged that "I don't think anybody here is discouraging the pilots" from writing books or in other ways benefiting from their imprisonment.

"A guy who's in on this isn't supposed to turn around and exploit it for profit," the official explained. "On the other hand, there's absolutely nothing in the regulations preventing him from writing or giving a speech."

None of the 12 prisoners released by the North Vietnamese before the peace settlement this year has written a book about his experiences or made speeches for profit.

Major Assailed War Critics

Maj. James N. Rowe of the Army, who escaped in 1968 after five years as a Vietcong prisoner, not only wrote a book but also created a Congressional furor in 1969 by attacking anti-war legislators and some newspapers and magazines, charging they damaged the morale of American prisoners. At one point, Major Rowe questioned the patriotism of Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota.

The major's book, "Five Years to Freedom," was published by Little, Brown & Co. in 1971.

Military officials have been screening the gifts and business offers pouring in for the prisoners to rule out potential problems of conflict of interest. Those offers that do not cause such problems are presented to the men.

The offers include free vacations, free baseball passes and the use of new automobiles.

The astronauts signed a con-

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Cinnaminson Welcomes A Returning Ex-P.O.W.

NYTimes

CINNAMINSON, March 4 (UPI)—Lieut. Col. Thomas Sima, who was among the first group of returned prisoners of war, came back to his home here today to two greetings.

The Air Force officer, who will return to Andrews Air Base in Maryland in seven days, was greeted in a park with a speech by Mayor Jerry Downs and patriotic music from the high-school band. Some 1,000 people turned out to greet him, many waving flags and holding signs.

One woman, Mrs. Rosemary Vogel of nearby Willingboro, presented him with a needlepoint sampler reading "Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

When he arrived at his house, Colonel Sima was greeted by another 100 well-wishers, including Cub Scout Pack 59, which formed an honor guard in his driveway. The scouts gave him the two-fingered Cub Scout salute, which he returned.

tract with Life magazine and Field Enterprises in Chicago in the early nineteen-sixties that reportedly provided for cash payments of more than \$1-million plus \$100,000 in free life insurance, for their personal stories. The contracts, which

became increasingly mired in dispute, were suspended in 1970.

Paul Sawyer, a New York lawyer who represented the astronauts in the negotiations with Life, defended the principle of exclusivity in a telephone interview today, saying that without such arrangements, "the personal story wouldn't get out."

He noted, however, that there were critics who suggested that the astronauts' stories belonged in the public domain and should not have been given exclusively to any specific publication.