

5 Who'll Be Freed

Some Unique POWs

Washington

The names of five prominent prisoners of war, including the longest-held POW in American history and the senior American diplomat captured by the Communists in Vietnam, appeared yesterday on the Viet Cong list of captives to be set free Friday.

Among the 32 names on the list were those of the Army doctor whose wife seconded George McGovern's nomination at the Democratic national convention, one Marine enlisted man who is "returning from the dead," and another who was originally thought to be a deserter.

Pentagon officials said the Viet Cong list, and a companion roster of 108 POWs to be set free today by the North Vietnamese, account for all acknowledged Americans captured from 1964 through 1967, and for all but four of those captured in 1968.

"It appears to us now that the releases are generally following the length of captivity, with those held longest being released first," said Defense Department spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim. He said the only major exceptions appeared to be some men already released despite relatively short periods of captivity because they were sick or wounded.

POWs scheduled to be in the next Viet Cong release include:

- Army Major Floyd J. Thompson, 39, of New Milford, N.J., an adviser captured in the northern part of South Vietnam, March 26, 1964. No American has ever been a war prisoner so long.

- Philip W. Manhard, 51, of McLean, Va., a civilian foreign service officer who was senior province adviser at Hue when he was captured January 31, 1968, during the Tet offensive. He is the senior American diplomat taken prisoner during the Vietnam war.

- Army Major Floyd H. Kushner, 31, of Richmond and Danville, Va. His wife, Valerie, gained prominence last July by seconding McGovern's nomination at Miami Beach. Earlier, she had figured in a controversial public attack on President Nixon's war policies.

- Marine private first class Ronald L. Ridgeway, 23, of Houston, who was part of a nine-man patrol ambushed outside the Khe Sanh artillery base in 1968. Remains identified as his were buried later that year at Jefferson Barracks Cemetery in St. Louis. The Pentagon did not learn he was alive until the official Communist listing of POWs in January.

- Marine private Frederick Lewis Elbert, 25, of Brentwood, N.Y. Until the Communist identification of



AP Wirephoto

MAJ. FLOYD THOMPSON
A record captivity

POWs in January, the Pentagon had considered Elbert a deserter. Defense officials have never explained the circumstances surrounding his case.

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