

transcribed from tape

More U.S. prisoners of war arrived in the Philippines today. One Air Force colonel from Philadelphia referred to the bombing of Hanoi by the U.S. last Christmas in this way: "I was extremely pleased at the way things began to turn in 1972, and the blessed twelve days of Christmas. When the twelve days started in December I cheered along with everyone else."

Seymour Hersh, writing in the New York Times, reports that at least eight of the U.S. prisoners of war scheduled to be released today are known to be critics of the war. They formed what a U.S. officer described as "the peace committee" and refused orders given by senior U.S. officers who were also imprisoned in the north. Unidentified military sources say they expect court-martials to be filed against some of these men. Some of them also made radio broadcasts against the war. One, Michael Branch, a specialist fourth class, is reported to have said on Radio Hanoi that he was a deserter and had crossed over to the side of the South Vietnamese people. Other messages reportedly broadcast by him called for desertions and urged U.S. soldiers to "refuse combat and just botch up your operations."