

8 Released by Cong Being Rushed Home

CLARK AIR BASE (Philippines) — (AP) — Eight released war prisoners said to have made anti-war statements while they were held in Viet Cong prisons are being rushed to the United States in an apparently speeded-up departure, sources reported yesterday.

Instead of undergoing the usual three days or more of "processing," they will leave today, two days after their release Friday from Hanoi, the sources said.

None of the other 19 servicemen and five civilians freed with them is likely to leave for home before tomorrow.

Intensive security has surrounded the men in their short stay here. Even some doctors who had been working with previous prisoners here are reported to have been replaced for the group of eight.

Among the eight, sources said, are Spec. 4 Michael P. Branch, 25, of Alexandria, Va., who was identified by Radio Hanoi as sending a message saying he was a deserter from the U.S. Army, and Green Beret S.

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Sgt. John A. Young, 27, of Arlington Heights, Ill., who was named by the official North Vietnamese radio as the sender of at least 14 anti-war messages.

The others are S. Sgt. Robert P. Chenoweth, 25, of Portland, Ore.; S. Sgt. James Alexander Daly Jr., 25, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Pvt. Frederick L. Elbert Jr., 25, of Brentwood, N.Y.; Sgt. Abel L. Kavanaugh, 23, of Westminster, Colo.; S. Sgt. King David Rayford Jr., 26, of Chicago; and S. Sgt. Alfonso Ray Riate, 27, of Bell Gardens, Calif., whose mother lives in Santa Rosa.

May File Charges

There have been reports from Washington that activities of some of the enlisted men infuriated American officers in the prison camps.

The reports said that officers have made known their intent to file charges against certain men for making anti-war statements, refusing orders, informing on fellow prisoners and the like.

The Defense Department has made no public statement on the matter and the official Pentagon position has been that the government plans no action against any of the prisoners for things they may have said or done while in captivity.

Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, however, any serviceman can file charges against another, regardless of rank.

If charges are filed, it would not be until all American POWs have been released, the sources said.

In 3 Planes

The eight are expected to be split up among the three huge C141 hospital planes

scheduled to leave Clark at two hour intervals this morning.

The first will head for Kelley Air Force Base, Tex., and McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., the second for Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and the third for Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield.