

## HANOI WILL HELP SEEK AMERICANS

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U. S. Says North Will Talk  
About Missing and Dead  
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CLARK AIR BASE, the Philip-  
pines, March 27—A Pentagon  
official said here today that the  
North Vietnamese were ready  
to facilitate the United States  
military's search for missing  
American soldiers and unrecover-  
ed bodies as soon as prisoner  
exchanges are completed this  
week.

Brig. Gen. Russell G. Ogan,  
who directs matters concerning  
prisoners of war and the miss-  
ing in action for the Secretary  
of Defense, reported at a news  
conference that North Vietnam  
had expressed a willingness to  
proceed with talks on the miss-  
ing servicemen and to hand  
over the bodies of United States  
soldiers in their possession.  
General Ogan has been part of  
the United States team that  
flies to Hanoi to arrange for the  
turnover of prisoners.

The general said that about  
1,330 American soldiers and ci-  
vilians listed as missing in ac-  
tion in North and South Viet-  
nam, Laos and Cambodia were  
still not accounted for.

The North Vietnamese have  
said that they are not hiding  
any American prisoners. "There  
are no others," Hoang Tung,  
senior editor of Nhan Dan, the  
Communist party newspaper,  
said in Hanoi on March 16, add-  
ing that a search would be  
started for all the missing and  
dead as soon as possible.

At his news conference Gen-  
eral Ogan also said that there  
were about 1,100 unrecovered  
bodies of United States soldiers  
known to have been killed in  
action.

He also said that the North  
Vietnamese had the bodies of  
some, including those who died  
in captivity, and had kept care-  
ful records on them. Plans  
have been made by the Ameri-  
cans, he said, to obtain the  
bodies for shipment back to  
the United States for burial.

General Ogan said he did not  
know whether the bodies had  
been cremated or whether they  
remained intact enough to per-  
mit identification.

### Recovery Center for Bodies

For those still lost on battle-  
fields or crash sites throughout  
Indochina, a Joint Casualty Re-  
covery Center has been estab-  
lished at Nakon Phanom Air  
Base in northeastern Thailand.

The United States is to work  
with the governments involved  
to begin a large-scale search  
operation that could last from  
three to five years.

According to the general,  
American search units are to  
work with the International  
Committee of the Red Cross  
and representatives of the vari-  
ous governments to comb bat-  
tlefields and more than 1,000  
sites where United States planes  
crashed during the war.