

Diplomat-POW Supports Aid

Washington

The highest ranking American diplomat held prisoner in Vietnam said yesterday that despite torture and 4 years of solitary confinement, he advocates giving American economic aid to North Vietnam "to generate a stable, peaceful coexistence" between the two countries.

At a State Department news conference, Philip W. Manhard, looking gaunt and tired after five years in captivity, said, "I think that this country has an admirable tradition, a spirit of generosity and forgiveness, a Christian tradition, to heal the wounds of war.

"The Vietnamese people need this. Human needs go beyond ideology and the hardships of the past."

But even while he was supporting the Administration's policy of providing aid to Hanoi, several members of Congress were strongly attacking the North Vietnamese for their alleged treatment of prisoners, and casting further doubt that Congress will approve an aid program to Hanoi.

Representative Joel T. Broyhill (Rep-Va.) reflected the views of many Congressmen when he said the sto-



AP Wirephoto

PHILIP MANHARD
'Needs go beyond ideology'

ries of prisoner torture related in recent days by the returning prisoners "convince me that not a cent of American aid money should be spent on rehabilitating a country that is apparently run by savages."

Representative John McCollister (Rep-Neb.) said, "The hell with 'em. I would not vote a bus token to North Vietnam. If the North Vietnamese want money, they can get their good friends Ramsey Clark and Jane Fonda to take a collection for them."

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