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**Mother Says
Son Still Held
In Cambodia**

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San Francisco Sunday Examiner & Chronicle

'Son a POW In Cambodia'

CHICAGO — (AP) — A Chicago mother said yesterday she is certain American soldiers are being held prisoner in Cambodia because she saw her son in a Cambodian prison camp.

"I saw my son for two minutes," Phyllis Allard said. "I touched him and I talked to him."

Spec. 4 Richard Allard is listed as "missing in action" by the U.S. Army. The Pentagon said last night it was unaware of his being held in Cambodia.

Mrs. Allard told the story of a visit to Indochina in January 1972. She decided to talk now about her trip, she said, after the Rev. Paul Lindstrom, who was chairman of the Remember the Pueblo Committee, claimed that 200 Americans missing in action still were held captive in Cambodia and Laos.

A State Department spokesman, John King, said, however, "There is no credible information available to us which would tend to support these charges."

Mrs. Allard said she went to Indochina to seek word of

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her son, who disappeared in August 1967 after his Army helicopter crashed near the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border.

She said she and her three other children previously had identified Richard from film clips released by the Viet Cong. She had been told by the Army, however, that the identification was "inconclusive" and her son could not be reclassified on that basis from MIA to POW.

She arrived in Phnom Penh, she said, and began "asking around" where she could get in touch with the Viet Cong. Two days later, they got in touch with her.

She said a group of Viet Cong took her to a prison camp which she would identify only as "in an area in Cambodia."

Before she was allowed to see her son, however, she was stopped by a man who Mrs. Allard believes was an official in the North Vietnamese Army.

"He was furious that I was there," she said.

"She doesn't belong here," she quoted him as saying "And they made me leave."

But on her way out, Mrs. Allard said, she saw a room full of prisoners.

Mrs. Allard broke her silence on her visit in a copyrighted story published in the New Hampshire Sunday News. In the story, she was quoted as saying her son was being held by the Pathet Lao.

The News also quoted her as saying she had written President Nixon and Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.), but they had taken no action.

Sunday News reporter Arthur Egan Jr. said he contacted a high ranking official at Fort Sheridan near Chicago and he said the Pentagon "has verified some of the details" of Mrs. Allard's journey.

Egan said the military official asked his name be

withheld and he went on to say that the only reason the Pentagon would not fully confirm the story is "then that would be admitting the Communists are still holding American POWs . . ."

From Cambodia, Mrs. Allard said, she went to Vientiane, the capital of Laos. At the North Vietnamese embassy, she spoke with Nyugan Quasing Tung, an official who suggested, "Why don't you go back to the Viet Cong?"

"So I went back," Mrs. Allard said. "I don't know if this is what he had in mind, but I used his name—I told the Viet Cong at the prison camp that Nyugan Quasing Tung said I could see my son."

"They took me into an area where it was like a hallway," she said. "They blindfolded me so that I wouldn't see and they walked me for just a minute or two into a room. I was there alone."

By this time, Mrs. Allard said, the blindfold had slipped off.

"Then an official and a man in uniform with a rifle helped my son into the room. They let go of him and I saw that he had difficulty walking. He was very weak. I went over to him to help hold him up and I touched him. And I turned around and I said to the Viet Cong, 'Shame on you for treating these men the way you do; he can't stand up.'"

"At first he didn't recognize me," Mrs. Allard said. "When he heard me talk he looked up at me and realized it was his mother."

Mrs. Allard said Richard rebuked her for making the trip. "He thought it was a mistake and I might get hurt," she said.

Mrs. Allard said she told her casualty assistance officer, Capt. Robert Morris, of her trip when she returned.

"They questioned me, then I didn't hear for two months, three months," she said.