

Ex-POWs Against Civilian Visits

Washington

Five former prisoners of war yesterday supported a proposal to ban unauthorized trips by U.S. citizens to nations fighting the United States.

They told Congress of torture, pressure and blows to their morale while Americans visited North Vietnam.

"I personally know of several men that were either forced to go see a delegation or there were repercussions afterward," said Air Force Capt. Larry Carrigan of Scottsdale, Ariz.

"These delegations did absolutely nothing for the betterment of our camp life. It did not improve one bit because they came to Hanoi. In fact, it hurt us and hurt us badly" and gave "aid and comfort to the Vietnamese," he told the House Internal Security Committee.

Navy Captain James Muligan of Lawrence, Mass.,

and Virginia Beach, Va., said that since the time of his capture in 1966, "many Americans, including myself, were heavily pressured, heavily threatened and some men were even physically forced and tortured to visit with these delegations."

Navy Commander Edwin Shuman of Marblehead, Mass., and Virginia Beach, Va., said: "I feel that our morale was definitely lowered by Americans coming over there and saying these things that they did."

Navy Lieutenant Commander Thomas Hall of Smithfield, Va., and San Diego, said that while he was not directly involved with any visitors, "I did live with people who were pressured, tortured to see delegations or, in one case, tortured and punished — as they call it — for poor performance at a delegation visit."

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