

Five Ex-P.O.W.'s Ask Curb On Travel to Hostile Lands

NYTimes — MAY 11 1973

WASHINGTON, May 10 (AP) — Five former prisoners of war have urged a ban on unauthorized trips by Americans to nations that are fighting the United States. They said that life behind bars in North Vietnam was made the more miserable by American antiwar visitors.

"All in all, it created an untenable situation for us," Comdr. David Hoffman of the Navy told the House Internal Security Committee yesterday. He said that the North Vietnamese "were convinced the delegations that came in there were representative of American public opinion."

"I personally know of several men that were either forced to go see a delegation or there were repercussions afterward," said Capt. Larry Carrigan of the Air Force. "These delegations did absolutely nothing for the betterment of our camp life."

They and the others, Capt. James Mulligan, Comdr. Edwin Shuman and Lieut. Comdr. Thomas Hall of the Navy, back legislation that would restrict travel by Americans in any country whose forces were in armed conflict with the United States.