

Kin of Lost GIs Back From Laos

Los Angeles

Relatives of 30 men listed as missing in Southeast Asia returned from Laos yesterday, saying they had learned nothing new but had not lost hope.

The leader of the group, Virginia West of Baltimore, Md., estimated that as many as 100 of the 300 men still carried as missing might be alive, even though a top Pathet Lao official told the group he knew of only one survivor. Mrs. West said she based her figure on survival statistics among prisoners in Vietnam.

"We are extremely disappointed that the men or information about them did not materialize," said Mrs. West, national coordinator of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia.

"But the families have reason to believe that at the

information of the coalition government, the information will be supplied to us," she added, referring to the Communist and non-Communist groups in Laos.

George Brooks, vice chairman of the group, said "the trip was certainly very much worthwhile. We were able to pass on to them the facts that the withholding of information which they certainly possess is of no political value to them."

The group met with embassy officials in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, and spoke with the International Control Commission and the Red Cross.

Some members flew to remote rural areas and showed pictures of their sons and husbands to peasants and refugees, but without results, spokesmen reported.

Associated Press