

American Ex-POW Finds Fiancee Wed

SAIGON, Feb. 25 (AP)—Mike Bengé, a State Department employee who spent five years as a prisoner of war, returned to South Vietnam to find his one-time Montagnard fiancée married to another man and with three children.

Bengé, 38, of Heppner, Ore., says he and the woman, 28-year-old Humi, still love each other, but "one has to go on with life whatever tragedy befalls one."

In a traditional Montagnard ceremony, Bengé went to Humi's village, and before the village elders and her family, he asked her if she still wanted to be his wife. Tradition says that the woman belonged to Bengé because she had consented to marry him before his capture.

"She said things hadn't changed between us outside of three children, including twins," Bengé recalled. "I told her that I considered the three children part of her and

would not take her without them. She said okay.

"But afterward she thought it over. She said the children would be too disturbed by being separated from their father and that she would rather remain unhappy and see the children happy."

Bengé had spent five years in Vietnam working for the U.S. Agency for International Development before his capture by North Vietnamese forces in January 1968.

Bengé is on convalescent leave from the State Department until March 18. He will return to Washington for consultations on his future and says he is hoping the State Department will allow him to attend the University of the Philippines at Los Banos for a master's degree in community development.

"I would like to eventually come back to Vietnam very much," he said.