

P.O.W. Commander Among 108 Freed
Civilian Among Them - Rest Are Pilots Held Since 1967 or '68

by James P. Sterba
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Clark Air Base, the Philippines, March 14 -

One civilian released today had not been listed by American officials as a captive though his name was reportedly on Hanoi's original compilation. He was identified as Bobby Joe Keesee, 39 years old, a native of Amarillo, Tex. He was reported to have commandeered a Thai plane in 1970 and forced the pilot to fly him to North Vietnam, where he was captured and treated as a prisoner.

Today he was not welcomed when he arrived on the third plane from Hanoi. Rather, he was escorted unseen onto a separate bus. A State Department official, James P. Murphy, who said Mr. Keesee was happy to be out of captivity and looked healthy, declined to discuss the circumstances of his capture.

[Remainder of story deals with other prisoners.]

Air Piracy Is Charged [Separate story at end of one above.]

Bangkok, Thailand, March 14 (UPI) - The owner of a Thai light plane that he said was hijacked to North Vietnam by an American civilian more than two years ago demanded today that the American be punished on charges of airpiracy.

Prince Bira Bongse Bhanubandh, chairman and chief executive of Bira Wir [typo? - Air?] Transport, said his plane was rented by Bobby Joe Keesee in September, 1970, supposedly to survey locations for a film about Thailand.

The Prince said that he would file a civil case against Mr. Keesee, who, he said, owes almost \$2,000 in rental fees and interest.

[Complete.]