Dellums to Seek Probe of 'War Crimes'

WASHINGTON (UPI)— Freshman Rep. Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., announced today he and other congressmen plan to introduce legislation calling for an investigation of alleged U.S. war crimes in Southeast Asia.

If the legislation fails to pass, he said, the group will convene its own informal war crimes inquiry to take testimony from Vietnam veterans and others.

Dellums said he expects to have support from several antiwar congressmen, including Reps. Robert F. Drinan, D-Mass., Bella S. Abzug, D-N.Y., and Phillip Burton, D-Calif.

"On the basis of some of the material I've seen, we prosecuted people after World War II for much less than we are doing in Southeast Asia," he said.

At a news conference, Dellums also announced he is providing office space to the Citizens' Commission of inquiry on U.S. War Crimes in Vietnam, a private antiwar group seeking to interest other congressmen in investigating alleged war crimes.