

SFChronicle APR 15 1977

Soviet View on Freeing of Liddy

WG

Moscow

The Soviet Union accused the United States yesterday of filling its jails with political prisoners while allowing convicted Watergate conspirators to go free.

The government news agency Tass noted that President Carter had promised to parole former White House aide Gordon Liddy and had already freed another aide implicated in the Watergate affair, Howard Hunt, in the "interests of justice."

But Tass added: "American prisons are filled with political prisoners and no one intends to free them in the 'interests of justice.'

"The benevolence of the authorities in regard to these thugs and criminals sharply contrasts with the persecution of the champions for peace and the civil rights of national minorities, strike organizers and other 'dissenters,'" Tass said.

Reuters