

POW Pilot Tells Of His Captivity

Clark Air Base, Philippines

Emmet James Kay, the last-known American prisoner of war in Indochina, said at a news conference here yesterday he gave his best to his job as a contract pilot with the U.S. Agency for International

Development — work he believed contributed to peace.

Clean Up Month

Washington

President Ford has proclaimed the period Sept. 15-Oct. 15 as "Johnny Horizon '76 Clean Up America Month."

In the proclamation requested by Congress, Mr. Ford urged all Americans to join in "neighborhood and community cleanups."

The Johnny Horizon program was originated by the Interior Department in a move to get a cleaner America by 1976, the country's 200th birthday.

Associated Press

Looking well despite a mild case of hypertension, Kay told his first news conference since his release Wednesday at Sam Neua, Laos, about being held 16 months by the Pathet Lao during which he was treated as "a very important person."

"They always reminded me I was their only American captive and that I was a very important person. If I had a cold or anything, they would worry over me and call in doctors," the 47-year-old pilot said.

Before his capture May 7, 1973, Kay said, he worked as a civilian pilot on contract with U.S. AID flying hospital equipment, food, "and occasionally arms."

He denied, however, that he was an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency or that he was involved in political or diplomatic activity.

He branded as a lie a news dispatch from Laos quoting him as saying he had flown for the CIA and had felt guilty about it.

Kay said during captivity, he was asked for anti-American statements and he broadcast some calls for peace in Indochina.

"I must admit I was quite upset with some of the problems in America, Watergate and things like that. My statements were generally all aimed at peace."

Kay continued that prospects for peace in Indochina

are "very very good" and that the American effort has contributed much to this.

He said at times he had arguments with his captors "because I thought I was right." On a few occasions, his life was threatened. "I am a loyal American," he added.

"Once they asked me to bow down to them or they would shoot me. I defied them. I stood very erect and though I was afraid, I think I gained their respect," said the six-foot pilot.

New York Times