

POWs - SVN's 1/4/72

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CBS TV am news opened with about 20 minutes on VN, general sit first. Peter Kalischer from Paris had two French schoolteachers (male) who had been SVN's political prisoners because of a demonstration they made in Saigon. The first-person account was of a daily diet limited to one slice of bread, two bananas and a small can of condensed milk. During their captivity they witnessed and described the tortures and murders of political prisoners, and they kept records of the names of the victims and their torturers, bringing them out when they were released hidden in their shoes. They gave some names and precise details. They reported the presence during their captivity of investigating committees, including American and of American lawyers and an inability to interest them. CBS aired a SVN rejoinder that adds up to propaganda by men who dislike them, like Friedheim/Ziegler. In the face of the precision of the details, I rather imagine only a McIntyre would credit denial. The rest of this open was pure grist for Whitehead, no milling necessary. A rally with Joan Baez singing, Rev. Allen saying how happy it would make God if he could make an honest man of Friedheim - or anyone at the Pentagon - interrupted by McIntyre; admissions of the loss of planes other than previously announced (new total dead, missing put officially at 93) and other such goodies. After a sequence on diving for Spanish gold in Florida and one on white in SF suing for the admission of other races into their housing development, Dan Schorr announcing that the Senate Commerce Committee will investigate WG via Krogh confirmation. Or, the kind of half-hour that does require administration attention. HW