

WITH INDOCHINA 021A

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TOKYO (UPI)--NORTH VIETNAM TODAY REJECTED A PROPOSAL BY THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXCHANGE 17 NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS FOR 17 JOURNALISTS WHO DISAPPEARED WHILE COVERING THE WAR.

THE CAMBODIAN PROPOSAL WAS MADE THURSDAY BY KEUKY LIM, MINISTER FOR INFORMATION, WHO SAID THE OFFER WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO A FOREIGN JOURNALISTS' COMMITTEE REQUEST THAT ATTEMPTS BE MADE TO GET INFORMATION ON THE MISSING NEWSMEN.

THE OFFICIAL HANOI NEWSPAPER NHAN DAN SAID THE PROPOSAL CANNOT RELIEVE THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISSING JOURNALISTS, "NOR CAN IT DECEIVE GENUINE JOURNALISTS IN THE WORLD."

THE NEWSPAPER DESCRIBED THE PROPOSAL AS "A VILE MANEUVER TO DISCREDIT THE DRVN (NORTH VIETNAM) AND COVER UP THE CRIMES PERPETRATED BY THE PHNOM PENH REGIME AGAINST VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS IN CAMBODIA."

IN PHNOM PENH, A NORTH VIETNAMESE DEFECTOR PRESENTED -- TO THE PRESS BY THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TODAY SAID HE HAD SEEN SIX CAPTURED JOURNALISTS IN THE EASTERN CAMBODIAN PROVINCE OF KRATIE IN MAY, 1970.

HOWEVER, THE LIEUTENANT, TRAN YAN HONG, 27, COULD NOT IDENTIFY ANY OF THE SIX FROM PICTURES SHOWN HIM OF JOURNALISTS LISTED AS CAPTURED AND MISSING IN CAMBODIA. HE ALSO WAS HAZY ABOUT THE EXACT DATE HE SAW THEM AND HOW MANY WERE WESTERN AND HOW MANY ASIAN.

HE SAID HE LEARNED ALL SIX HAD BEEN SENT ~~TO~~ ACCORDING TO COMMUNIST POLICY WITH CAPTURED JOURNALISTS.

SEVENTEEN JOURNALISTS INCLUDING THREE AMERICANS ARE LISTED AS MISSING IN CAMBODIA, EIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED AND SEVEN OTHERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED. HONG SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THOSE KILLED, OR EVEN THAT THEY HAD BEEN KILLED.

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