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Headline: Official's Arrival To Discuss MIA's Reported

Source Line: BK2707155491 Hanoi VNA in English 1326 GMT 27 Jul 91

FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Text] Hanoi VNA July 27-Vietnam reasserts that all U.S. prisoners of war (POW) were turned over to the U.S. Government after the Paris agreement on Vietnam and no living U.S. prisoner remains in Vietnam, either as prisoner or voluntary resident, said Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head of the Vietnamese permanent mission at the United Nations, at a press conference held in New York Wednesday.

2. Before the representatives of about 30 major news agencies, TV, radio, and newspapers, the Vietnamese ambassador read a statement of the Vietnamese UN mission on the POW/MIA issue, and said:

3. "Vietnam has more than once issued statements that no U.S. POW's are still detained in Vietnam and no U.S. serviceman has volunteered to stay back in Vietnam. Immediately after the signing of the Paris agreement, all U.S. prisoners of war were returned to the United States. Vietnam did not want to keep any U.S. POW's. On the contrary, it has cooperated with the U.S. Government to solve this emotional issue".

4. After reviewing the efforts and goodwill acts of the Vietnamese Government in cooperating with the U.S. Government to settle this humanitarian issue as shown especially in the permission for the U.S. to open a POW/MIA office and a war veteran office in Hanoi, Trinh Xuan Lang stressed that Vietnam will continue cooperating with the U.S. Government to clarify any related question.

5. He said: "J.L. Robertson, one of the three American pilots killed in the Indochina war, but claimed by some ultra-rightist elements in the U.S. to be still alive in Vietnam actually met his death when his plane was shot down".

6. He produced documents of the 13th joint U.S.-Vietnam investigation to prove that all the claims that Robertson is still alive are groundless.

7. He urged that the person or persons who produced the photograph cooperate with the Vietnamese and U.S. Governments to solve the question at the root. If he refuses to cooperate and investigation shows that the the photograph was faked, the faker should be condemned and punished, Mr Lang added.

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8. "To raise false hopes for the MIA families is both wicked and inhuman," he stressed.

9. In conclusion, the Vietnamese ambassadors condemned those who are making use of the MIA question which is an emotional issue for the American people to hamper the normalisation of relations between the United States and Vietnam.

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