

CIA

U.S. AIDES CONFIRM WAR-PRISONER TALK

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The State Department declared today that the United States was "doing what it can to effect the release of United States prisoners held by the Communists in Vietnam."

A department spokesman refused to comment, however, on the details of news reports describing the effort to negotiate the release of Gustav C. Hertz, an official of the Agency for International Development who was captured by the Vietcong in February, 1965.

Private, however, officials confirmed the reports, which described contacts with the National Liberation Front, parent movement of the Vietcong. The goal is to arrange the exchange of Mr. Hertz for a Vietcong guerrilla, Nguyen Van Hai, who was arrested in Saigon last March as a participant in a bombing attack on the United States Embassy.

Those involved in the negotiation effort are Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York, Sanford Gottlieb, national secretary of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, and representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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