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SAIGON -- THE FIRST U.S. CONGRESSMAN TO MEET THE VIET CONG SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE IN VIETNAM SAID TODAY THE COMMUNISTS CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF MISSING AMERICANS "A SMALL ISSUE."

REP. G.V. MONTGOMERY, D-MISS., TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE, "WE MUST USE NEGOTIATION, PRESSURE OR WHATEVER IT TAKES."

"THERE IS NO REASON WE CAN'T GET THESE BODIES OUT AND GET THIS RESOLVED," HE SAID.

MONTGOMERY SAID HE TOLD VIET CONG COL. VO THO SON TODAY THAT "THIS IS A MAJOR TOPIC IN THE U.S. HE SAID IT WAS A SMALL ISSUE."

THE CONGRESSMAN TALKED FOR 65 MINUTES WITH SON, CHIEF VIET CONG NEGOTIATOR AT THE STALLED TALKS AIMED AT ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING AMERICANS, AT THE COMMUNIST'S SAIGON COMPOUND AT THE EDGE OF TAN SON NHUT AIRBASE.

NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICERS IN SAIGON REFUSED TO MEET WITH MONTGOMERY IN SAIGON, BUT TOLD HIM TO TALK WITH HANOI OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE, LAOS. MONTGOMERY LEAVES SAIGON FOR LAOS THURSDAY.

"NORTH VIETNAM DEFINITELY, AND PROBABLY THE PRG (VIET CONG) HAVE GOOD INFORMATION ON OUR MIAS, MONTGOMERY SAID.

"IT IS GOING TO BE HARD WORK," HE SAID. "BUT IT CAN BE SOLVED, TO GET THESE BODIES RECOVERED.

MONTGOMERY SAID HE HAD FOUND NO INFORMATION THAT ANY MISSING AMERICAN -- WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CIVILIAN PILOT EMMET KAY HELD IN LAOS -- WAS STILL ALIVE.

HE SAID SON TOLD HIM THE VIET CONG WOULD ALLOW NO MORE SEARCHES FOR AMERICAN BODIES IN ITS AREAS UNTIL THE VIETNAM WAR ENDS.

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