

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

USAFMPC (AFPMSC)
RANDOLPH AFB TEXAS 78148

29 August 1969

Dear Air Force Next of Kin

The Secretary of Defense has repeatedly expressed his deep personal concern over the plight of the 1,325 United States servicemen missing in action or captured in Southeast Asia and their families who are anxiously awaiting some news.

At the next of kin meetings, the families have been assured that our personnel will not be forgotten and that only the highest priority will be given to the welfare of American prisoners and their eventual release from captivity.

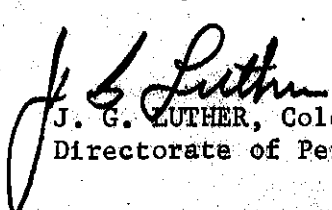
On 4 August 1969, one Air Force and two Navy members who were prisoners in North Vietnam returned to the United States. While we are extremely pleased that these servicemen have been returned, the United States cannot be content with propaganda-planned releases of a few men at infrequent intervals, which have thus far been the case.

The Department of Defense believes that the American public should continue to be aware of North Vietnam's uncompromising attitude regarding prisoner matters.

Therefore, it is possible you may soon be receiving information through the news media concerning the treatment of American prisoners held by North Vietnam. Some of the information may appear distressing. Please understand, however, that any such statements are made with the clear recognition that our first responsibility is to improve the welfare of our captured personnel in Southeast Asia.

Be assured that we will continue to advise you of any new information.

Sincerely


J. G. LUTHER, Colonel, USAF
Directorate of Personnel Services