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FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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An Appeal for International Justice will be made on May 1 -- Law Day -- in Washington, D. C.

Over 500 family members of men missing in action or prisoners of war in Southeast Asia will be in Washington that week to take part in various activities culminating in the rally in Constitution Hall, May 1.

The rally has been organized as a show of support for these men and their families and to call attention to North Vietnam's persistent violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention with regard to the treatment of prisoners of war.

Although North Vietnam ratified the agreement in 1957, the North Vietnamese government, the Viet Cong and the Pathet Lao have refused to uphold the convention on four main points:

- *to provide for immediate release of sick and injured prisoners,
- *to provide impartial inspections of prisoner facilities,
- *to provide complete identification of men held,
- *to allow all POWs to communicate regularly by mail with their families

There have been captive Americans in Southeast Asia since the first American was shot down in August, 1964. To date, there are 1,518 American military personnel being held prisoner or classified as missing in action in Southeast Asia. Names of most of these men are known only to the North Vietnamese.

In the last five years, only 200 of those captured have been allowed to communicate with their families.

Over 200 family members have had face-to-face meetings with North Vietnamese officials in Paris and other parts of the world in attempts to obtain names of those being held captive.

It is undisputed that the treatment of many captives is inhumane.

Lt. Robert Frishman, who was captured Oct. 24, 1967, made the following statement at a press conference, Sept. 2, 1969, shortly after his release:

"I don't think solitary confinement, forced statements, living in a cage for three years, being put in straps, not being allowed to sleep or eat, removal of finger nails, being hung from a ceiling, having an infected arm which was almost lost, not receiving medical care, being dragged along the ground with a broken leg, or not allowing an exchange of mail to prisoners of war are humane."

What can the average citizen do to register his protest and concern? An intensive letter-writing campaign is underway.

(more)

Dole
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Those wishing to participate in the campaign may address their letters to:

National Liberation Front of Vietnam
Madame Nguyen Thi Binh
49 Avenue Cambaceres
Verrieres - Le Buisson
91 Essonne, France

or

Mr. Xuan Thuy
North Vietnamese Delegate to the Paris Peace Talks
Paris, France

A group of seven U.S. Senators and six Representatives, spearheaded by U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) is sponsoring the May 1 event.

They are: Senators George Murphy (R-Calif.), Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.), Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Edmond S. Muskie (D-Maine), Peter H. Dominick (R-Colo.), and John Stennis (D-Miss.), and Representatives W.C. Daniels (D-Va.), Catherine May (R-Wash.), Olin E. Teague (D-Tex.), Richard Roudebush (R-Ind.), Robert L.F. Sikes (D-Fla.), and Martin B. McKneally (R-N.Y.).

H. Ross Perot is honorary chairman. Plans are being coordinated with Mrs. James B. Stockdale of Coronado, Calif., National Coordinator of the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia and Mrs. James A. Mulligan of Virginia Beach, Va., Area Coordinator of that organization.