

For "The Forgotten Americans"

Petitions For Humane Treatment Of Vietnam War Prisoners Circulated

By - Cal Carpenter

Petitions asking for humane treatment of American prisoners held by the North Vietnamese communists are being circulated in Brevard. It is hoped that, if enough Americans express their concern in this way, through neutral embassies, the Hanoi government will be shamed by world opinion into treating prisoners in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

The petition drive, sponsored by the Air Force Association and the Air National Guard, is spearheaded in the southeast by Col. William Kelly, Commander of the 165th Military Airlift Command Group in Savannah, Georgia. It is headed in the Brevard area by Master Sergeant Jimmy Alderman, Manager of the Brevard College Bookstore and a member of the 165th MAC Reserve Group. The petitions are available now in many local stores. When completed, they will be sent to several neutral embassies.

NAME AND ADDRESS ONLY

The petitions require the signer's name and home address only. Their purpose is purely humanitarian; they ask only that the North Vietnamese government abide by the international conventions as to honorable and humane treatment of prisoners of war. Through diplomatic channels, the effort will be to force the Hanoi government to provide the names of war prisoners, allow Red Cross inspection of the camps, and distribute mail and Red Cross packages in accordance with international agreement.

"Anyone old enough to write his name and address is welcome to sign the petitions," says Col. Kelly. "Concern over the mistreatment of our war prisoners is not exclusive with adults."

The petition effort is nationwide. The effort is to get as many names from as many parts of the country as possible. The more American concern that can be clearly shown to the neutral embassies, the more the possibility of neutral and non-communist economic sanctions which could force the Hanoi government into compliance with the international agreements on prisoner treatment — agreements which they have signed.

REAL TRAGEDY

The mistreatment of some 1400 American prisoners of war is one of the most tragic things to occur in this or any other war, in the opinion of many peoples of the world. The hardships they endure, as have been evident by the few prisoners released, are in direct violation of Convention agreement. How much more other prisoners have suffered can only be guessed at since the Hanoi communists have allowed no international inspection of their prisoner camps. The little known about prisoner conditions in North Vietnam and in Viet Cong areas other than obvious propaganda releases through communist sources, is from the factual reports of a few returned prisoners which describe treatment in only a few of the several North Vietnamese and Viet Cong camps.

There is sufficient information, however, to leave little doubt in all informed opinion that there is suffering, degradation, isolation and mental and physical mistreatment of men who, whatever the political arguments, were only doing their duty as soldiers and airmen.

Even less defensible is the real tragedy of the communists' refusal to release the names of

prisoners. Hundreds of wives and families have lived for years without knowing whether husbands, fathers, sons are alive or dead. The innocent have deliberately been made to suffer in order to use their tragic uncertainty as a political weapon.

INTERNATIONAL BANDITRY

With most people, there is no way of softening the description that obviously applies to the cruel and inhumane treatment of American war prisoners and their families by the Hanoi regime. Their refusal to abide by the civilized, world-accepted rules for treatment of prisoners and the deliberate torture of innocent families places the men responsible beyond the pale of humane reason. It is pure and simple international banditry in the opinion of all reasonable people.

Can world opinion sway such a government? There is no answer to this question until it is tried. The petitions are a way of trying it that everyone can join.

Certainly the government of the United States has made its concern over this inhumane action clearly known. More than 274 members of the U. S. Congress have introduced resolutions on the POW question. The President has personally expressed concern; hundreds of important people both in and out of public life have gone on record with their horror at this international inhumanity. Major magazines and news sources have left no doubt as to their concern.

An article entitled, "The Forgotten Americans of the Vietnam War," by Louis R. Stockstill, published in the Air Force and Space Digest magazine, has been read into the Congressional Record. It is one of the most important documents of journalism in recent years, in the opinion of its Congressional sponsor, Congressman Roman C. Pucinski, Democrat from Illinois.

BREVARD'S PART

The people of Brevard are now being offered a chance to help in the important effort to shame the communist government of North Vietnam into complying with the international rules of decency in the treatment of war prisoners. They are offered a chance to relieve the tragic suspense of hundreds of wives and children and parents who still do not know whether loved ones are living or dead.

They can go on record with their fellow citizens of the free world that they abhor the inhumane treatment of helpless men in the communist prison camps.

They can add their voices to the swelling chorus of decent people who demand a stop to international barbarism.

On other occasions, communist governments have bowed before world opinion backed by the threat of economic boycotts. Maybe, and hopefully, they will do it again.

WHERE TO SIGN

Petitions have been placed in the following businesses in and around Brevard:

The Brevard Pharmacy, corner of Broad Street and West Main

Duvall Drugs, College Shopping Center

Johnson's 66 Service Station, Four-lane highway

Morris Pharmacy, corner of Broad street and West Main

Quick-Shop Grocery, Rosman highway.

Science for You

BY BOB BROWN



PROBLEM: Phototropism: the turning of a plant as influenced by light.

NEEDED: Milk cartons, soil, bean or mustard seeds.

DO THIS: Cut off the cartons, place dirt in them and plant the seeds. Place some cartons in a dark place, some where bright light reaches them from one side and others where light is about equal on all sides. The plants will grow toward the brighter light.

WHY: Cells on the darker side of the plant grow faster and longer. The seeds planted in a dark place will grow faster, but will die in a few days for lack of food.

Growth regulating substances called "auxins" are produced in the tips of young growing stems, and migrate in greater quantity toward the darker side of the stems.

This special "Science For You" feature is sponsored by Olin Corporation at Pisgah Forest in co-operation with The Transylvania Times.

NOTICE

State of North Carolina
County of Transylvania

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust executed by FRANK GREENE and wife, SHIRLEY H. GREEN to JERRY H. JEROME, Trustee for Brevard Federal Savings and Loan Association which said Deed of Trust bears date of the 20th day of September, 1969, and is recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Transylvania County in Deed of Trust Book 84, Page 103, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and said Deed of Trust being by the terms thereof subject to foreclosure, the undersigned substitute Trustee, E. GENE RAMSEY, will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the Courthouse door in Brevard, North Carolina, at noon on Wednesday the 13th day of May, 1970, the property conveyed in said Deed of Trust the same lying and being in Brevard Township, Transylvania County and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin situated in the Northern margin of Park Avenue, said iron pin being situated N. 65 deg. E. 5 ft. from the Southeast corner of Lot No. 2 of the Franklin Park Subdivision and running thence with the Northern margin of Park Avenue N. 65 deg. E. 95 ft. to a stake; and running thence N. 24 deg. 49 min. W. 136.6 ft. to an iron pin; and running thence N. 23 deg. 37 min. W. 129.60 ft. to an iron pin; and running thence S. 61 deg. 20 min. W. 167.0 ft. to a stake situated in the Eastern margin of Boxwood Street; thence down and with the Eastern margin of Boxwood Street, S. 29 deg. 42 min. E. 99.63 ft. to a stake; thence N. 71 deg. 54 min. E. 57.83 ft. to an iron pin; thence S. 26 deg. 01 min. E. 149.09 ft. to an iron pin in the Northern margin of Park Avenue and point of **BEGINNING**. Being all of that property conveyed to Velma C. McFarland at Book 96, Page 155, and also conveyed at Book 96, Page 154 in the Transylvania County Registry.

This the 14th day of April, 1970.
S/E. GENE RAMSEY
Substitute Trustee
4/16/4tc

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—1 ream Olin Waylite Paper (500 Sheets) ideal for second copies and Air Mail Letters. Special: \$1.00. The Transylvania Times.

Social Studies Teachers At Regional Meeting

Hundreds of social studies teachers from all parts of North Carolina have been meeting at regional conferences this week to discuss forthcoming revisions in the social studies curriculum. The meetings are a part of a three-year in-service program designed by the State Department of Public Instruction and the African-American Institute. One aspect of the revision, according to State School Superintendent Craig Phillips, is the scheduled inclusion of African studies at the seventh grade level during the 1971-72 school year.

Attending the regional meeting at Asheville were W. J. Cahey, Jr., Rosman School; James L. Loooper, Rosman Elementary School; Mrs. George Wilson, Brevard Junior High; Mary P. Gordan, Transylvania County Schools; Patricia P. Bishop, Brevard High School.

When in need of job printing, call The Transylvania Times.

Bake Sale At Etowah Friday

There will be a bake sale Friday, May 8th, from 3:00 til 8:00 p.m. at the Northwestern Bank at Etowah.

This sale is sponsored by the Ladies auxiliary of Etowah-Horse Shoe Fire department.

Proceeds of the sale will go to the Fire Department.

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S, adv.

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their reach. A mistaken notion that might keep you in an ordinary car, instead of an Olds.

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