

# FOE HANDS 3 G.I.'S TO ANTIWAR GROUP

## Two Displayed to Newsmen in Cambodia—3d Ailing

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Saturday, Nov. 12 (AP) — The National Liberation Front, political arm of the Vietcong, handed three captive over a representative of an American peace committee today.

Two of the American prisoners appeared at a news conference in the Front's headquarters here. The third was reported to be ill.

The servicemen at the news conference were M. Sgt. Daniel Lee Pitzer of Spring, Lake, N. C., a prisoner for four years, and Sgt. James E. Jackson Jr. of Talcott, W. Va., who was captured in 1965.

All questions concerning where the prisoners had been held or dealing with other prisoners of the Vietcong were turned aside by the front's representative, Nguyen Van Hieu. Both prisoners, apparently reciting from memory, gave brief speeches.

### Hayden Takes Custody

The front's representative said the third American, M. Sgt. Edward R. Johnson of Seaside, Calif., had been suffering from dysentery.

"He is in the next room," the spokesman explained. "We thought it best to let him rest a little more."

The prisoners, attired in rubber sandals, were turned over formally to Thomas Hayden, an antiwar activist in several American organizations who was a recent visitor to Hanoi.

Mr. Hayden said he represented a committee of Americans. He declined to give details of how or when the Americans would be taken home.

"I have just met them," he said. "We have just begun to discuss arrangements. I can assure you they will be home with their families in the shortest possible time. The men are now free."

But at the end of the 40-minute appearance in the living room in the front's headquarters, the men were led into another room inside the building, which is just a few blocks from Cambodia's royal palace.

At the conference, Sergeant Jackson spoke first. He gave his name, rank and service number and added:

"I was captured on July 5, 1965, near Binhung in Caumau Province. On Oct. 31, 1967, I was released. I was told by the National Liberation Front that I was being released in solidarity with the people's movement in the United States."

About 40 people attended the

conference, most of them Cambodian journalists, along with a few Communist correspondents from North Vietnam and Eastern European countries. Only two American reporters were present.

"While I was a prisoner, the conduct that I maintained helped the decision of the National Liberation Front," Sergeant Jackson said.

"I want to thank them for the decision to release me and for allowing me to return home to my family and my country. I want to thank also Mr. Hayden and his committee for the work they have done to get us home."

Neither Sergeant Jackson nor Mr. Hayden cleared up the question of what the men had been doing since Oct. 31, when the front said they were set free.

Sergeant Pitzer also began his speech by reciting his name, rank and service number.

"I was captured in October 1963 in Caumau province," he said. "I have been a prisoner four long years. I want to say in my four years as a prisoner I have not been physically tortured or beaten by anyone."

"I want to thank the National Liberation Front for its lenient policy, and Mr. Hayden for his efforts to get us back to America."

Several prisoners captured by the Vietcong have previously been released in Cambodia.