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E. De la Garza

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PLEASE

December 31, 1973

Washington, D.C. 20515

McALLEN-- Rep E (Kika) de la Garza today repeated his urgings to the State Department and the Department of Defense to intensify the search for any unreported prisoners of war in Southeast Asia and to increase their insistence for a thorough accounting of all those missing in action in the same area.

In his message to the State Department Rep de la Garza praised Secretary Kissinger's efforts as the United States representative to the Paris peace talks, while lauding President Nixon's actions in the final years of the Vietnam conflict. Rep de la Garza has always steadfastly supported President Nixon's insistence that all POWs be returned home.

"While most of us are ending 1973 with our families", the South Texan said, "We must count our blessings. It is proper to note gratefully that for the first time in many years no American men are falling in the southeastern Asia battlefields. As we offer thanks to our divine Lord for this and the bountiful blessings He has always bestowed on this great nation, our special prayers should be given that those missing in action be accounted for as promptly as possible and that hopefully all of them can be reunited with the families they have left behind".

Rep de la Garza reiterated his often made pledge that he will spend every effort toward the achievement of that goal.

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