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Hanoi Reiterates 'No POW's Being Held'

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[Excerpt] Hanoi, Feb 10 (AFP)--Hanoi reiterated Friday [10 February]
that there were no American prisoners
of war still being held in Vietnam, a day after a former
U.S. congressman offered a 2.4 million dollar reward for
any prisoner **returned**.

..TEXT:
`Vietnam has said several times that there are no American prisoners

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of war in Vietnam and this has been acknowledged by the U.S. Departments of State and Defence," an official Vietnamese source said here.

..TEXT:

The source added that the activities of former Congressman William Hendon "contribute nothing to solving the humanitarian problems which are the concern of both countries and which are progressing well."

..TEXT:

(Mr. Hendon said Thursday in Hong Kong that he was convinced that Vietnam was holding "several hundred" Americans listed as MIAs (missing in action) during the Vietnam war which ended in 1975.

..TEXT:

(Mr. Hendon, accompanied by the relatives of three MIAs, said he planned to sail Friday to within 200 miles (320 kilometres) of the Vietnamese city of Da Nang and float hundreds of helium-filled balloons offering a 2.4 million dollar reward for the **return** of any prisoners.)
[passage omitted]

..TEXT: