



Wayne Briggs and Lynn Yocum

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Vietnam Missionaries Asked To Counsel at Security Prison

SAIGON, Vietnam — A few months ago, Mr. Ralph Cadeaux, American Embassy Counsel, asked Wayne Briggs and Lynn Yocum, Vietnam missionaries, if they would take the role of counselors at the Vietnamese maximum security prison.

They now make regular visits to the Chu-Hoa prison to talk with some 15 Americans that are imprisoned for crimes ranging from illegal money exchange and blackmarketing to murder. The government of Vietnam has meted out heavy

sentences of five years to life, aimed especially at the blackmarketer, because of the treasonous nature of the crime.

It is estimated that a high number of the Viet Cong held weapons that were obtained with the use of U.S. dollars as the medium of exchange. U.S. dollars are unavailable in Vietnam except through blackmarketers, as "green" was replaced by a special Military Payment Currency (MPC) in August, 1965.

When Briggs was "upcountry" visiting a Christian, and wounded by Viet Cong sniper fire in January, he was hit by 30-

caliber machine gun bullets. They were fired from an American made weapon, probably obtained when a camp was overrun by VC, or purchased through the blackmarket with U.S. dollars.

Thus the U.S. Embassy hopes that Briggs and Yocum will be able to help in the rehabilitation of these men.

Wayne and Charlotte Briggs are living in Saigon and are supported by the Lennon Road Church in Flint, Mich. Yocum is based at Nha Trang and is sponsored by the church in Salina, Kans.