

Former hostage Joseph Subic Jr.

Family awaits U.S. reunion with son

By BILL CASPER
and LYNN ORR

The telephone call came at 3:50 a.m. Wednesday, less than 16 hours after the American hostages left Tehran.

For the first time in 14½ months, Joseph and Helen Subic of Redford Township were talking to their son, Joseph Subic Jr., one of the 52 hostages released Tuesday.

"He took a shower, then he called us," said Mrs. Subic in a statement released through a public affairs officer.

"We talked for about 35 minutes. He sounds great. Joe says he was only given one hour notice that it was over and he was being flown out. Physically and emotionally, he knows he's going to require time to adjust and to fully grasp what has happened."

"He is exhausted. He sounded completely tired. But as tired as he was, he tells us they had a champagne flight from Algiers to Germany. He says he will be calling us again today (Wednesday) after he gets some rest."

The Subics admitted they were up all night but are awaiting word from the U.S. State Department on their trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with their son, possibly at an undisclosed location.

"We will not be going to Wiesbaden (Germany)," she added.

THE SUBICS plan to make a brief statement at Metropolitan Airport when they return to Detroit with their son and to hold a more extensive news conference the next day, possibly at the Detroit Press Club, said a source close to the family.

Newspeople who mobbed the Subics' home on Royal Grand for hours Tuesday morning finally drifted away after the family issued a statement through a Redford police officer.

The Subics declined to make a public statement themselves until they are "arm-in-arm" with their son, according to the police officer.

JOSEPH SUBIC SR., a retired Army sergeant, did release several statements through the Gaal Monday when the release of the hostages appeared imminent.

"It finally seems real," Subic said, according to Gaal. "We feel that the money is theirs (the Iranians) and that we are giving back to them that which is theirs."

"We feel that the Carter administration handled as best they could an unprecedented and difficult situation. They worked long and hard at it, and we won't quarrel with the results so far."

"We are just so relieved, happy and

thankful that the ordeal appears to be over."

The Subics also said they received a letter from their son, an Army staff sergeant and member of the U.S. Embassy staff in Tehran, shortly after Christmas in which the younger Subic talked about the future and his confidence that he'd be coming home soon.

"It was a very high-keyed letter, very optimistic in tone."

REDFORD POLICE guarded the Subics' home Tuesday, carrying out their orders to prevent the press from harassing the family or shooting photographs through the windows. They said that they had no problems with the press — estimated to number about 30 newsmen at one stage — and that they were very cooperative.

The family's reluctance to talk directly with the press may have been reinforced when Joseph Subic Jr. confessed to engaging in espionage activities on a film released by his captors last April.

The film depicted the young defense attaché in an embassy room which he said housed electronic espionage equipment. Subic also charged embassy officials were conspiring to topple the Islamic regime in Iran.

Friends of the family discounted the film as propaganda because of the younger Subic's background. He was an Eagle Scout and called "GI Joe" because of his interest in military and police work.

Subic dropped out of his junior year

in high school in Bowling Green, Ohio, to join the Army. He was known as a patriotic young man who rode in squad cars with the police and cleaned rifles at the National Guard Armory.

NEIGHBORS OF the Subic family interviewed Tuesday afternoon were without exception listening to and watching news reports of the hostage situation as the stories unfolded Tuesday. All expressed relief and elation with news of the hostages' freedom.

"We're all sitting here and chewing our nails," said Maryann Capman, who lives two houses away from the Subic home. "We're listening, watching and waiting. And we're excited for the Subic family. I have some understanding of how they must feel, because I have a boy who was stationed overseas in the service."

Another neighbor, John Dybas, said he was happy for the Subic family but expressed anger over the hostage ordeal.

"It took it a tragic, crummy situation," he said. "I spent three years overseas in the Air Force and I wouldn't have appreciated the lack of support by our government had I been held over there against my will. I think our government should have jumped hard on the Iranians, not militarily, but financially, and cut off food."

"We're the only country that plays by the rules, and it wasn't pleasant to see our people held against their will when we're the most powerful country on earth."



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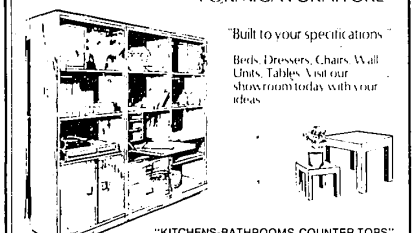
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