

Simple Copper Bracelet Symbolizes U.S. Concern

By EDITH LADICK
Times Correspondent

LANSING — It's just a simple copper bracelet with a name and a date.

But the bracelet, worn by Lansing Librarian Mrs. Joanne Jensen, symbolizes something everyone can do — write letters to neutral countries in behalf of Americans being held prisoners of war or missing in action in southeast Asia.

Mrs. Jensen obtained her bracelet by sending \$3 to the non-profit Illinois chapter of the National League of Families in Glenview, Ill. A nickelplate bracelet is available for \$2.50.

Each bracelet has the name of a POW or someone missing in action and his presumed capture date. The bracelet is worn as a reminder to participate in the letter writing campaign and the wearer, if he wishes, can also write to the family of the person identified on his particular bracelet.

THE LETTER is enclosed in an envelope addressed to VIVA—Voices in Vital America, a non-profit, non-political student organization in California which forwards the letter to the family.

VIVA, Mrs. Jensen said, is dedicated to the belief that progress in freedom can only be maintained by rational and responsible action.

Those interested in writing letters to neutral countries, though, do not have to obtain a bracelet to do so. Mrs. Jensen has reprinted the list of names she received with her bracelet.

The list, which can be picked up at the library, includes the names and addresses of ministers of foreign affairs in neutral countries. There are 12 names in all — one for each month of the year.

The league asks participants in the campaign to write a letter every week to one of the names on the list. The letter is to ask for a full accounting of prisoners of war and those missing in action; request that a neutral nation be allowed to go in and inspect the camps and provide

medical treatment; and ask for repatriation of the sick and wounded.

SINCE THE VIET CONG and North Vietnamese are reportedly sensitive to public opinion, the league believes volume of mail would indicate to them that Americans are concerned.

Mrs. Jensen already has written to Andrei Gromyko and Torsten Nilsson, adjutant of foreign affairs in Stockholm. She said the letters may not help, but at least it's doing something.

The campaign deeply interests Mrs. Jensen since she is concerned about the situation. All the books she has read on prisoners of war who have returned report the treatment in the camps is worse than inhuman.

"Everytime I think I don't have this or that, I look at my bracelet," Mrs. Jensen said, "and am reminded of those who have nothing and of their families who do not know whether their son or husband is alive or dead."



Bracelet is constant reminder for Mrs. Joanne Jensen.

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