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3 Yank PWs home from Angola jails

By United Press International

Three American prisoners of war freed by Angola arrived in New York yesterday to tearful reunions with family and friends, and two said they had been treated humanely by their Marxist jailers.

Geoffrey Tyler, 28, of Seabrook, Md., a pilot, and mercenaries Gustavo Grillo, 33, of Toms River, N.J., and Gary Acker, 28, of Sacramento, Calif., arrived on a TWA jet from Paris.

The three had private reunions with their families and friends.

"I don't feel that my treatment was inhumane, although my confinement in the jail was completely unjust," said Tyler, who described his reunion with his mother, Marjorie, as tearful.

Grillo, who said he went to Angola for "romance and adventure," said he too "was treated humanely." Grillo was met by his stepfather and mother, Edmund and Laura Hewelet, also of Toms River.

"We are extremely happy to have Gustavo back home again," said Edmund Hewelet at his home last night. "He didn't sleep for three entire days, between all the traveling and all the excitement. You can imagine how excited he was after spending seven years in jail and then being released all of a sudden."

Hewelet said that Grillo "hit the sack" as soon as he arrived home. "He is completely exhausted and just wants to catch up on his sleep," he said, adding that his stepson is "feeling pretty good."

TYLER WAS ferrying a single en-

gine plane from Lakeland, Fla., to Capetown, South Africa, when engine and electrical troubles forced him to land in Angola on Feb. 4, 1981. He said no charges ever were filed against him.

Grillo, who said he volunteered to fight for the FNLA guerrilla group, walked with a cane and said he suffered a leg injury in Angola.

"I was in combat. I was ambushed," he said, denying he worked for the Central Intelligence Agency. He was taken prisoner in 1975 while fighting for the FNLA, and was convicted of mercenary charges. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison and served seven years.

Acker also was captured, convicted of mercenary charges and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

The Americans were handed over Tuesday to International Red Cross authorities in Lusaka, Zambia, as three Soviet prisoners, a Cuban and 94 Angolan PWs were released by South Africa.

The complicated exchange of prisoners involved six nations, including Cuba, the Soviet Union and South Africa.