

CIA Uproar Stirred by Sen. Young Statement

Exclusive to The Times from the New York Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The CIA and State Department were thrown into an uproar Wednesday when a news dispatch reported Sen. Stephen M. Young (D-Ohio) as saying he had been told the Central Intelligence Agency had committed atrocities in Vietnam to discredit the Viet Cong.

But the 76-year-old senator told the Herald Tribune News Service, "I did not say that."

His earlier purported statement elicited an immediate denial from the usually silent CIA — "absolutely false," a spokesman protested—and deep anguish among State Department officials who feared his reported remarks would have disastrous repercussions abroad.

Those reactions stemmed from a news agency dispatch quoting Young as saying that a CIA agent in Vietnam told him the CIA committed atrocities there to underscore the Viet Cong guerrillas' reputation for cruelty.

Asked about the report,

Young modified it considerably.

He said "a man who claimed to be working for the CIA" in Vietnam alleged the intelligence agency had hired some South Vietnamese to masquerade as Viet Cong, adding:

"It was alleged to me that several of these executed two village leaders and raped some women."

In a meandering elaboration of the remarks attributed earlier to him, the senator indicated at one point he believed a group of the purported masqueraders had committed the alleged atrocities.

But he then added, "I still don't know, I don't believe such an incident occurred, but I could see how it could have occurred."

"CIA has employed some South Vietnamese and they have been instructed to claim they are Viet Cong and to work accordingly," the senator said, "but of course no one could tell me any American instructed anyone to perpetrate outrages." **END**