

FILM OF ATROCITY IN DISPUTE RE-RUN

The Columbia Broadcast System re-ran with supporting evidence last night a film that the network said was the target of a White House "undercover campaign to discredit C.B.S. News."

The network said the White House had contended that the film, of an atrocity, had been "faked." But in re-running the film, C.B.S. included an interview with a South Vietnamese sergeant who admitted the incident.

The re-run came during the last half of the 7 P.M. news with Walter Cronkite, as had the original. Mr. Cronkite called it the "the story of a story" first run about six months ago.

The film showed an apparently unarmed North Vietnamese prisoner being stabbed, the knife withdrawn with some difficulty from his side and then plunged again into his stomach.

The South Vietnamese who did the stabbing has since been identified, and a C.B.S. reporter in Vietnam interviewed him through an interpreter.

The soldier, Sgt. 1st. CI Nguyen Van Mot, named a Soldier of the Year in 1969, remembered the knifing, said that he had done it and that the prisoner had been reaching for an AK-47 rifle. A slow-motion re-run of that portion of the film showed another soldier picking up an AK-47 near the prisoner before Sergeant Mot stabbed him.

Mr. Cronkite, in conclusion, said: "We broadcast the original story in the belief it told something about the nature of the war in Vietnam. What has happened since then tells something about the Government and its relations with news media which carry stories the Government finds disagreeable."

Mr. Cronkite had charged that the White House had prodded "receptive" reporters into writing articles indicating that the White House and Pentagon were investigating reports that the account had been rigged by the network. A White House spokesman said late yesterday: "There has been no official investigation of C.B.S., and there is not an investigation by the White House of C.B.S." A spokesman for the Pentagon refused to comment.