

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Agents Shadow Viet Beauties

By Jack Anderson

Since American dependents were sent home from South Viet-Nam, security agents have been preaching harder than the chaplains to keep lonely officers out of the native night clubs.

For too many officers, dazzled by romance or tipsy from booze, have been passing on intelligence information to Vietnamese beauties.

One report claims that half the girls in Saigon's night clubs peddle information to the Communists. Others maintain a profitable neutrality by spying impartially for both sides.

Some commanders were glad to see the wives and children leave. They had introduced American suburban living — complete with PX supermarkets, soft drink machines, station wagons, air conditioners, and officers' clubs—to the Saigon environs.

This soured the less privileged Vietnamese, who were forever scurrying out of the way of high-powered American cars.

Though the departure of the dependents has put the U.S.

forces back on a war footing, security agents wish the families were around to occupy the men on lonely evenings.

FBI Blackballs Aide

Despite an adverse FBI report, Rep. Mike Feighan (D-Ohio) has been fighting to unload a private investigator from his own payroll and plant him on the Government payroll.

Feighan has taken over the chairmanship of the House Immigration Subcommittee. As his \$20,000-a-year chief counsel, he wants the Judiciary Committee to approve Philip Corso, who has been running private investigations for him.

But the FBI has submitted an uncertain report on Corso, a mysterious figure who has been masterminding right-wing intrigue on Capitol Hill. The colonel, as he likes to be addressed, worked out of the office of Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), the white supremacy champion, before latching on to Feighan.

Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach furnished the Judiciary Committee with the FBI report, which accused Corso of nothing illegal. But it was so disconcerting that Chairman Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) refused to approve the appointment.

In a rage, Feighan phoned the Attorney General and tongue-lashed him for turning the FBI memo over to Celler. Feighan accused Katzenbach of "McCarthy-like tactics" for circulating "unevaluated" information—this from a Congressman who has conjured up "Communists" where not even the late Sen. Joe McCarthy imagined them.

(Feighan has charged from the sanctuary of the House floor, for example, that the Central Intelligence Agency is loaded with Communists, thus implying that John McCone runs a house of treason.)

Showdown With Celler

After scorching Katzenbach, the Congressman from Cleveland tried to override Celler and ram the Corso appointment through the Judiciary Committee. During the showdown, Celler sought in vain to placate Feighan.

Celler told Feighan he was forcing him to reveal something he didn't want to. Celler then revealed he had received an FBI report on Corso that showed him to be unreliable and he refused to make the appointment. Feighan fumed, but Celler asked him to recommend someone else better qualified than Corso.

When Feighan refused to withdraw the appointment,

Celler reluctantly read the FBI memo, which reported, among other things, that Corso was the source of the vicious rumor that President Kennedy's assassin, Lee Oswald, had been in the pay of the FBI.

When FBI agents confronted Corso, he blandly explained that he had picked up the rumor from a CIA source whom he refused to identify.

Corso also has been a close associate of Frank Capell, who claims to have files on over 2 million Communists in this country (some 1,970,000 more than the FBI has been able to find) and who was indicted last month by a Los Angeles grand jury for his alleged part in preparing an ugly, false affidavit against Sen. Tom Kuchel (R-Calif.).

After listening to the FBI report, not a single Judiciary member supported Feighan's demand to put Corso on the public payroll.

Unable to stick the taxpayers with Corso's salary, Feighan is continuing to pay him out of private funds. This has caused some of Feighan's colleagues to wonder. For he has a reputation in the House as a penny-pincher, who hoards pencils, pads, and paper clips. They wonder if he would shell the money out of his own pocket.

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