Court Cautions U.S. RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 15 Treasury Department agent to (UPI)—A federal appeals court has warned the government against using military personnel as undercover agents in civilian criminal cases. Treasury Department agent to purchase weapons from a civilian couple. The couple, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Walden of Quantico, Va., was convicted of selling firearms to minors and non-residents.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued the warning that the letter of the law was

and non-residents.

in its ruling Monday on a 1972 not voilated, and it upheld the case in which court records Walden convictions. But the showed that three Marines court indicated that evidence were recruited by a special obtained by military under-cover agents may be disallowed in the future.

"We conclude . . . that there was a violation of the regulations," the court said. "But because this case presents the first instance of which we are aware in which illegal use of military personnel in this manner has been drawn into question, we decline to impose the extraordinary rule at this time, or to reverse the judgment.

"We reserve, however, the possibility that such a rule may be called for should repeated cases involving military enforcement of civilian laws demonstrate the need for the special sanction of a judicial deterrent," the court said.