

Torney Denies Green Beret's 'Stoolie Role'

New Dispatches

Sept. 22 — The cl-

Boyle might be playing a "stoolie role."

The Army announced last week that murder and conspiracy charges against Boyle and Sgt. 1-C Alvin I. Smith are being "held in abeyance" while six other Green Berets are scheduled to go on trial on the same charges.

Henry B. Rothblatt, lieutenant, CWO Edward Smith's counsel has also denied that his client agreed to testify for the prosecution.

Rothblatt said he intended to demand a "completely open" trial, with the press and public implying that

On arrival at Saigon's Tan-Son-Nhut Airport, Rothblatt told reporters the defense intended to have the CIA and other government agencies "make a full and complete disclosure of all relevant evidence."

The Army has said the general courts-martial of the six officers will be open except when classified information is being discussed.

Rothblatt added, "If we cannot have a fair and impartial military jury, we may very well ask for a civilian court case."

The U.S. Army officially confirmed today that the name of the alleged victim of the June 20 slaying is Thai Khac Chuven. Previously they identified him as Chu Yen Thai Khac.

Mrs. Thomas C. Middleton, Jr., wife of a Green Beret major charged along with five other officers with murder in the death of a Vietnamese believed to have been a double agent, came to Washington from South Carolina to seek help in getting the trial moved from Vietnam to a military court in the United States.

Beret's Wife Calls Accused Scapgoats

The wife of one of six Green Beret officers facing murder trials in Vietnam said yesterday she believed the Army

was using the Special Forces officers as innocent "scapegoats" to cover up "their own mistakes."

She said she believed the defendants could not get a fair trial in Vietnam because "General Abrams seems to have instigated the whole thing," Gen Creighton W. Abrams is Army commander in Vietnam.

Mrs. Middleton told a news conference she thought the Army was "getting tired of the 'elite corps'" which the Green Berets have become and wants to disband it.

She said she also understood Abrams was "upset with Col. Rheault", but she didn't know why. Col. Robert B. Rheault, former Green Beret commander in Vietnam, is one of those facing murder charges.

Mrs. Middleton has meetings scheduled with Rep. L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and with Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), a senior Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee and well connected with the Nixon administration.

Mrs. Middleton said she also plans to petition President Nixon to move the trial to this country.



Henry B. Rothblatt of New York City flashes for victory sign while standing with accused Green in front of their Long Binh barracks. From left:

Mal. David E. Crew; Capt. Leland J. Brunley; Capt. Robert F. Marasco; Maj. Martin J. Linsky, an attorney representing Col. Robert B. Rheault, and Rheault.

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