

Military Deserters Evict 'CIA Agent'

By Wilfrid Fleisher
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STOCKHOLM, March 15—William Russell, who described himself as an editor of the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force Times was evicted from a press conference here today by American military deserters who charged he was "an agent of the CIA."

The press conference had been called by a group of 20 deserters to explain the circumstances under which Ray Jones, a deserter who returned to Frankfurt on Tuesday, was "pressured" by Russell to give himself up. Russell admitted he "convinced" the soldier to return to his unit in West Germany and accept his punishment.

Russell announced at the start of today's meeting that he had talked with the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army in Heidelberg, and that "any American who returns with me, or without me, between now and Sunday, will be given a considerable advantage or a reduction of his punishment."

William Jones, head of the newly formed American deserters' Committee here, re-

plied, "There are no takers." He accused Russell of being an agent for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and ordered him to leave the meeting.

Asked if the group could prove that Russell was a CIA agent, William Jones said Russell had come here with records of each of the 42 deserters known to be in Sweden, which he could "only have obtained from American military authorities."

Russell told a reporter that he was here "to persuade as many American deserters as possible to return to their units." He told the deserters, he said, that he was not a CIA agent, but that "they were not being neglected by the CIA and there were agents among them."

At a press conference yesterday to explain his mission here, Russell charged that Sweden "is making political use of American deserters to discredit the United States."

Swedish newsmen called Russell's behavior "an extremely crude performance."