

# Beret Case Theories Abound

## MYSTERY, From A1

**The Wrong-Man Theory—** Vu Ngoc Nha was a North Vietnamese Catholic who worked as a South Vietnamese Special Forces officer. He sent agents into North Vietnam on secret missions.

One of those agents turned himself in as a Chieu Hoi—a Communist who rallies to the government of South Vietnam. Under Green Beret questioning, the agent said his boss, Nha, had really sent him to North Vietnam to give information

to Hanoi—not to get it for Saigon.

The Green Berets brought Nha in and accused him of being a double agent. Nha died on their hands—perhaps under torture. The CIA found out about the death and told the Green Berets

they had accused the wrong man. Chieu Hoi was the real traitor—not Nha.

The CIA complained to high Army authorities and insisted that the responsible Green Berets be arrested on murder charges.

Also, Nha was supposedly a military aide to Father Hoang Quynh when the latter led the Catholic anti-Communist militia in North Vietnam from 1950 to 1953. Father Quynh denies this, but says he has known Nha for many years.

The U.S. Army has not released the name of the Vietnamese murdered near Nha-trang June 20. Some Saigon sources insist he is Vu Ngoc Nha.

**The CIA Hex Theory** Green Berets, in examining photos of North Vietnamese agents gathered in Cambodia, recognized one of them as their own agent. The agent was brought in and questioned hard. He admitted he was a double agent—spying for both Hanoi and Saigon. What to do?

The CIA, according to Green Beret sources, passed the equivalent of an execution order by ordering the Special Forces men to "terminate with extreme prejudice" the relationship with the agent. The Green Berets did this—and fast. The CIA revoked its order a few days later. But it was too late. The alleged double agent was on the bottom of the ocean—weighted down Mafia-style.

CIA leaders in Vietnam exploded, taking their complaints against the Green Beret execution right to Gen. Creighton W. Abrams,

## Stories of Intrigue Surround Beret Case

Saigon, on the most ordinary of days, is full of extraordinary stories of intrigue—none of which can be dismissed completely.

Too many impossible things have happened in that impossible city during this impossible war.

Now there is a murder case involving eight Green Berets and dozens of informed sources in Saigon are explaining what really happened—in the deepest secrecy, of course.

In the absence of an official Army explanation of the killing, these tales have received wide attention. They may be true, partly true or fabrications. Here are the

major theories coming out of Saigon:

**Torture Theory—**Communists have obtained film of the Green Berets torturing prisoners. They showed these pictures when the exchange of prisoners issue came up at the Paris peace talks. How can you accuse us of mistreating American prisoners, the Communists asked, when you do this to our men?

In response, the United States decided to arrest the men shown torturing prisoners—as well as the commander of all the Green Berets in South Vietnam.

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commander of all American troops in Vietnam.

Abrams became angry, too, and ordered his aides to "clean up" the Green Berets. Result: eight Green Berets arrested on murder charges, including the colo-

nel who commanded them in Vietnam.

Here in Washington, CIA officials deny they were involved in the case at all. But the stories about CIA involvement keep coming out of Saigon.