

Apparent Policy Violation

Peace Corps Man's Intelligence Tie

by Michael Taylor

A former high-ranking Army intelligence officer in Vietnam is now the director of Peace Corps operations in Zaire, an apparent violation of Peace Corps policy, The Chronicle learned yesterday. *

Army records show that William H. Crosson served as a top intelligence colonel in the American military command's headquarters in Vietnam from February, 1965, until April, 1966.

Crosson retired from the Army in 1967 and, after a stint as a public relations director for a Midwestern manufacturer of agricultural equipment, joined the Peace Corps in March, 1972.

He now directs the activities of about 200 Peace Corps volunteers in Zaire, the former Belgian Congo.

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In the volatile politics of Africa, Zaire has frequently been in the middle of sensitive political issues involving the United States.

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Crosson served in Vietnam from Feb. 1, 1965, until April 26, 1966, as chief of two different branches of counter-intelligence in the American military's joint intelligence staff of operation, according to a Pentagon spokesman.

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* Peace Corps rules prohibit anybody with past or present ties to the [CIA] from joining the Peace Corps.