

Merry-Go-Round

20 Aug 69

**The Green Beret
Murder Mystery****Drew Pearson**

Today's column is by Drew Pearson's associate Jack Anderson

THE MISSING pieces are beginning to fall into place in the Green Beret murder mystery. The puzzle is not that a Vietnamese double agent was knocked off, but that the Americans did their own dirty work. In other cases, the South Vietnamese have been the triggermen.

Allied security and special forces, including the Green Berets, carry wanted lists of Viet Cong agents.

Any agents who are picked up, however, are supposed to be turned over to the South Vietnamese. Usually, they are charged with treason and brought before the South Vietnamese courts. A number have beaten the rap and have been released for lack of evidence.

However, some agents are considered too dangerous to trust to the judicial processes and are secretly marked for elimination. The executions are carried out quietly by the South Vietnamese, but their American accomplices would be held guilty in any U.S. court of accessory to murder.

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THE SOUTH Vietnamese aren't as ruthless, it should be added, as the Communists who have been systematically murdering government sympathizers for years.

The Communists have found murder an effective method of eliminating opposition and controlling the countryside. Finally, last year General Creighton Abrams, the U.S. commander in Vietnam,

decided to adopt the enemy's own tactics, in part, to combat the infiltrators.

The Americans have acted merely as advisers to the South Vietnamese who have moved in to make actual arrests and upon occasion, to eliminate a dangerous agent without the nicety of a trial.

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IT WAS only the direct involvement of Americans that made the alleged Green Beret killing unique. What happened, according to intelligence sources, is that a Vietnamese agent named Chu Ven Thai Khac was caught selling out the Americans.

He belonged to an intelligence ring that was funded by the Central Intelligence Agency through an import-export front. All the while, he was a double agent for the North Vietnamese.

Khac was incriminated when the Green Berets got hold of some captured photographs showing him talking to North Vietnamese intelligence agents.

The Green Berets asked the CIA what they should do with Khac and got back an oral suggestion that they get rid of him.

Possibly, the CIA expected the Green Berets to turn Khac over to the South Vietnamese for quiet disposal in the accustomed manner. When the CIA learned from additional conversations that the Green Berets intended to handle the execution themselves, the "unofficial" suggestion was hastily rescinded. But it came too late; Khac had already been disposed of.

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