

Letter Quotes

Beret on Slaying

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — A letter published today quoted Capt. Robert Marasco as admitting his part in a plan to "do away with" a suspected enemy agent — the slaying of which he and five other Green Berets were accused before being freed yesterday.

Marasco was identified by the Army as the "trigger-man" in the case. He insisted he was only following orders.

The letter, published in today's editions of the Washington Post, allegedly was written by Marasco on July 26 to his wife in Bloomfield, N.J.

'Determined Guilt'

It said, in part:

"Many of the details I cannot go into because they are classified, but suffice to say that we determined his (the agent's) guilt and had to decide what to do with him.

"My unit commander, Maj. Crew, Operations Officer Capt. Williams and two CIA officers and myself went through all the channels to include the commander and civilian intelligence agencies.

"There were numerous reasons why we could not let him go, so the powers-to-be

decided to do away with him. Being the people involved, it was up to us to come up with a plan and execute it.

"We followed through with it thinking that the proper coordination had been made and that this was a military operation.

'In Jail'

"The result: One colonel, two majors, three captains and one warrant officer are presently in jail charged with conspiracy and murder."

"This situation is too unbelievable to comprehend," the letter added. "We felt we were doing something that was approved and was in the best interests of the war and the country."