

CIA Accused of My Lai Meddling

FT. McPHERSON (Ga.)—(AP)—Attorneys for two soldiers charged in the alleged massacre at My Lai have drawn the Central Intelligence Agency into the case.

They accuse it both of involvement in the massacre and of trying to destroy the credibility of the 12 men accused in the slayings.

Last week Attorney Charles Weltner of Atlanta, representing Sgt. Esequiel

Torres, said the My Lai victims were on CIA death lists as Viet Cong sympathizers.

And Attorney George T. Davis of San Francisco, representing Spec. 4 Robert W. T'Souvas of San Jose, claimed the U.S. routinely orders the slaughter of Vietnamese civilians suspected of Viet Cong leanings.

He said the government employs assassination teams for that purpose in every province in South Vietnam and that each team has an adviser who is a U.S. Army

officer or civilian employed by the CIA.

Yesterday Davis said the CIA is conducting a well organized and highly secret campaign to destroy the credibility of his client and the other 11 men accused in the case.

Davis made the comments in a telephone interview in connection with the arrest Tuesday of T'Souvas by a Georgia State Patrolman in Atlanta and charged with illegal possession of marijuana.

Less than two weeks earlier, Torres, 22,

was charged with firing a rifle illegally in Brownsville, Tex.

Torres was acquitted of the rifle charge Wednesday, and Weltner said he believes the incident "was a monstrous fabrication prepared by someone or some agency who wished to destroy Torres' credibility as a witness."

Davis, asked specifically if he believes the CIA is behind an effort to further discredit those accused at My Lai, said:

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"I think they are."

Murray Silver, an Atlanta attorney who will represent T'Souvas on the marijuana charge, said, "I think I can agree with Mr. Weltner's contention.

"Something, or someone, is attempting to keep this young man under constant surveillance. And, from what I know about this case (the marijuana charge), I think they are trying to affect his credibility."

T'Souvas, 21, his 19-year-old bride of less than a month, and Steve Gerald Patton, 19, of Atlanta, were arrested on Interstate 75 just south of the city's main business section.

State Trooper Russell Abernathy said he was behind a car driven by Patton when he noticed the three occupants, all in the front seat, passing a pipe back and forth.

Abernathy said he stopped them, discovered a bag of marijuana and the State Crime Laboratory later confirmed the contents of both the pipe and bag.

T'Souvas' attorneys contend the pipe was not in the car, that "it would have taken an expert scientist with a highpowered magnifying glass to determine if the bag contained marijuana or just two or three tiny grains of tobacco," and that the entire investigation "was conducted right there at the scene with a Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent appearing almost instantly."

Weltner said there were only two witnesses against Torres in Brownsville — a Mexican barmaid who doesn't speak English and a man who told authorities a rifle found in Torres' possession was one which had been stolen from him.

The attorney said Torres was not at the bar at which the alleged shooting occurred but was "at all times with

another man who is a friend of his."

Also, Weltner said, the witness claiming to own the rifle "disappeared when Torres produced sales slips showing that he had made payments on the rifle beginning on Dec. 17, 1968.

"Where did these witnesses come from?" Weltner asked. "Who got them? Who drew up that statement from the barmaid?

"All of that is entirely too much to be a casual mistake."