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Mystery of Ex-Colonel's Death

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Atlanta

Police were trying yesterday to piece together the recent activities of retired Army Colonel Robert F. Bayard, 56, in an effort to find who killed him with a single shot to the temple in an Atlanta shopping center.

There were reports that Bayard, who pioneered development of night-vision weapons used in Vietnam, had been seen in the company of dissident urban in the Atlanta area recently.

Bayard, who retired from the Army after his tour of duty in Vietnam, once worked with the Unit-

ed Nations Arab-Israeli peace-keeping mission under the late Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold. He also commanded the 1st Brigade of the 87th Airborne Army Division when President Johnson sent it to the Dominican Republic in 1965.

But his activities since his 1970 retirement were cloaked in mystery.

After returning to his home in nearby Marietta, Ga., Bayard went to work

with arms dealer Mitchell L. Werbell.

A national magazine said last winter that Bayard had been observed training insurgents on the Bahamian island of Abaco, but Bayard denied the reports.

Werbell said he believes the killing was politically motivated.

"He was a damn fine soldier. He had no enemies," said Werbell.

Police said Bayard had worked as a private detective and had been a security consultant since his retirement.

He left home Thursday afternoon, telling his wife he was going to Atlanta to look for a job.

Thursday night patrons of an Ansley Mall shopping center tavern called police and said a man had been beaten and was lying at the rear of a tree-dotted courtyard at the mall.

Police found the body shortly before midnight. It carried no identification, and the pockets had been turned inside out.

The body was identified when officers found a coat matching Bayard's pants crumpled on the front floor of a car parked at the mall. They checked the registration of the car and found it was Bayard's.

United Press