

Ex-POW Indicted in Envoy Kidnaping

SAN DIEGO--A "soldier of misfortune" who turned up as the only civilian among American prisoners of war released by North Vietnam, has been indicted on charges that he set up the kidnaping of an American vice consul in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Bobby Joe Keesee, 40, who has been involved in several international incidents, was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges he "aided, abetted, induced and caused" the kidnaping of John S. Patterson.

Patterson, 31, was kidnaped March 28, and there has been no sign of him since. Patterson's wife has attempted to pay a ransom, but said she was unable to make the rendezvous.

Keesee was already under arrest in connection with the kidnaping. He was being held in the Orange County jail on FBI charges that he tried to extort \$250,000 from the government.

The U.S. attorney's office would not say what new evidence led to the indictment Friday, accusing Keesee of setting up the kidnaping but not actually carrying it out himself.

Keesee surprised U.S. officials by turning up among the POWs. They did not know the North Vietnamese had any American civilian prisoners. His appearance seemed to confirm a report by a Thai charter pilot that an American hijacked his plane in 1970 and forced him at gunpoint to land in North Vietnam.

In the 1960s, Keesee served a two-year prison term after deserting the Army, stealing a light plane and flying to Cuba. He later turned up among hostages held by Palestinian guerrillas in Amman, Jordan.