

The Army continues to remain silent concerning the charges by Lieut. Col. Anthony B. Herbert that atrocities committed by American and Vietnamese intelligence personnel have been deliberately covered up. This can only create the suspicion that the Pentagon itself has joined in the alleged suppression of facts.

True, Colonel Herbert had been given half-hearted vindication when a damaging efficiency report against him was ordered expunged from the record. But this action fails to explain why the Army's inquiry, which was recorded in 3,000 pages of testimony, has never been made public.

Some of the unanswered questions are: Did the inquiry show that Colonel Herbert had indeed witnessed, tried unsuccessfully to stop and subsequently reported criminal actions against prisoners and civilians? Were his reports suppressed? Was he told to keep hands off? Was he, in fact, penalized for his efforts by dismissal from command by issuance of the now rescinded unfavorable rating?

All that is known to date is that the officers accused by Colonel Herbert of complicity in the deliberate cover-up have since been promoted and cleared of all wrongdoing, although one of them authored the apparently false and vindictive efficiency report. Was the voiding of that report intended as a deal to persuade Colonel Herbert to let the case rest?

As of last week, Colonel Herbert was still assigned to a phantom job at Fort McPherson, Georgia, waiting for the promotion to which his "vindication" entitles him. Total—rather than grudging and partial—restoration of one officer to all rights and honors that are his due is still a matter of simple justice. But it cannot be considered a substitute for full disclosure of the facts concerning the atrocity charges. They involve nothing less than the question whether torture and murder have been condoned as part of the arsenal of American and South Vietnamese intelligence procedures. The answer appears to be contained in the still-secret testimony. The public has a right to demand that the veil be lifted.