



United Press International

LEAVE DETENTION BARRACKS: Capt. Robert F. Marasco, left, and Capt. Budge E. Williams departing confinement area at Longbinh after charges against them were dropped.

Author Says He Killed Agent in Vietnam

Robin Moore, the author of the novel "The Green Berets," says he personally killed a double agent while in South Vietnam with the Special Forces gathering material for his book.

In an interview on WPIX-TV Monday night, Mr. Moore said that as a civilian he spent a year training with the Special Forces and another year with them in Vietnam before writing his book. It was published in 1965 by Crown Publishers, Inc.

"I've been to their assassination schools," Mr. Moore said. "I've been with them. I've personally witnessed shooting of double agents. I did one myself because it was easier for me to do than it was for them."

Feels Free to Talk

Mr. Moore did not elaborate on the killing in which he said he was involved and he was not immediately available for comment. However, a few minutes after the interview he told employees of the television station that he felt free to talk about Special Forces practices now that the Army had dropped murder charges against six Green Beret officers in South Vietnam.

In response to a question during the television interview, Mr. Moore said of the Green Berets that political assassination was "their business." He said: "This is what they were trained to do. They do it very well and they're very good at it."

Later in the interview he

said: "You've got to remember that the Green Berets were the ones that got Che Guevara in Bolivia. They've been working very closely with the Arab countries in the Middle East. They're all over the world, Vietnam is only one small area of their operations."

Called Multiple Agent

Mr. Moore described Thai Khac Chuyen, the alleged victim in the Green Beret case, as a "triple or quadruple agent."

The novelist asserted that the agent had been negotiating for South Vietnam's President, Nguyen Van Thieu, and Vice President, Nguyen Cao Ky, with the North Vietnamese "as to how much of their property they would be able to keep should they stick with the idea of slowly having a coalition government."

Mr. Moore said the details of the negotiations included how much money Mr. Thieu and Mr. Ky could keep and how they and their families would be treated. "He was a very important guy to them," Mr. Moore added.

To many observers this explanation of the agent's role appeared to be questionable because both Mr. Thieu and Mr. Ky have consistently opposed any form of coalition government for South Vietnam.

At the same time, observers thought it was not entirely unlikely that the South Vietnamese leaders might have explored all possible means of exit in the event that they lost power. There have been reports

that many Vietnamese have been taking steps to escape in the event of a Communist takeover.

Mr. Moore was born Robert L. Moore Jr., in 1925, the son of the chairman of the finance and executive committees, board of directors, of the Sheraton Corporation of America. After graduation from Harvard in 1949 he worked in television and in public relations and advertising for the Sheraton Hotels.

He wrote his first novel, "Pitchman," about early television practices, while working for the hotel chain, but eventually devoted all his time to writing. His other works include "The Devil to Pay," which was about Castro's guerrilla campaign as seen by an American gun-runner and "The Country Team," a story of the combined American military and civilian effort against Communism in a country of Southeast Asia.

Mr. Morse said during the television interview that he believed the Army had dropped the case against the six officers because of the "tremendous implications involved."

He said that in addition to teaching techniques of terrorism and assassination to the Vietnamese, the Special Forces also taught them "to be g doctors . . . everything that it takes to run a country properly."

"Assassination," he added, "is a very important way to run a country in the Far East. You just gotta learn that."