

Nixon Took Hand in Beret Case

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — The White House conceded today that President Nixon was involved in the decision to drop murder charges against eight Green Berets in South Vietnam.

Ronald Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said Nixon approved the Central Intelligence Agency's contention that to make CIA agents available for testimony in the case might jeopardize national security.

Ziegler had said yesterday the President had not participated in the decision. Today he conceded that there was some involvement.

By Ziegler's account Nixon approved the CIA's decision and the Army dismissed the charges after being informed of the Nixon-approved CIA decision.

The Army did not seek Nixon's approval for its action but did inform the White House that the charges would be dropped. Ziegler said.

Asked whether anyone at the White House reviewed in advance Army Secretary Stanley Resor's announcement, he said, "to my knowledge we did not."

He also said that no one at the White House "exerted persuasion" on the CIA or the Pentagon while the matter was under consideration.

'Beret' Author Admits Slaying

New York — (AP) — Robin Moore, author of the 1967 bestseller "The Green Berets," says he personally killed a double agent while visiting Special Forces troops in South Vietnam.

"I've been to their assassination schools. I've been with them," he said yesterday on a television program.

"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."

The author also said, "You've got to remember that the Green Berets were the ones that got Che Guevara in Bolivia. Guevara, a lieutenant of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, was slain there."

"They've been working very closely with the Arab countries in the Middle East . . . Assassination is a very important way to run a country in the Far East. You just gotta learn that."

"If you send them over there to Vietnam, you can't blame them for doing their job," he said of the Green Berets. Moore said he was "pleased and surprised" that Americans were "saying 'they should have shot a few more.'"

He said he had learned that Thai Khac Chuyen, the alleged victim in a Green Beret murder case — in which charges were dropped against the Americans Tuesday — was a "triple or quadruple agent."