

# Embassy

## Duty for Navy

### Commandos

San Diego

Navy Seal commandos have received special training for possible assignment to American embassies in countries plagued by guerrilla terrorism, according to informed sources here.

The Seals — the name is derived from sea-air-land — would monitor guerrilla and revolutionary activity and give counsel to the foreign governments on counterinsurgency tactics, while at the same time reinforcing security for the lives and property of Americans.

Assignment of these specialists — trained in such counterinsurgency tactics as hit-and-run abductions of enemy military and political leaders — to embassies in perhaps a dozen countries was said by a Navy informant to have been under consideration for some time at the Pentagon and State Department.

Discussion of the proposal has been accelerated, he said, by the recent deterioration of the Ameri-

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NYT (longer story)  
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can military position in the Mediterranean, rising anti-Americanism in some African countries and anxiety over events in Korea, the Philippines and other Asian areas.

Seizure by Japanese terrorists this week of a part of the American embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, along with a number of hostages, was believed likely to spur the discussions.

Navy sources stressed that the Seals, 2500 of whom have been trained here and at Little Creek, Va., over the last 13 years, would be assigned only to embassies in "friendly countries."

The countries under consideration were not identified here, but one informed source said they included capitals in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the western Pacific and, possibly, South America.

Selected groups of the Navy commandos, totaling 75 or 80 men out of a current force of about 300, were were said to have been given the special training to equip

Back Page Col. 6

From Page 1

them for possible embassy duty, including language and political courses. They would be accredited as embassy naval attaches and assistants. Almost all are veterans of Vietnam combat.

Seal units of two to six men each are already stationed at American military bases overseas, in both the Pacific and Atlantic, and others are attached to military assistance missions in countries that have defense alliances with the United States.

An officer of the specialized warfare command in charge of Seal training at the Navy's Coronado amphibious base here said that if the commandos were attached to embassy staffs their role would be largely advisory. But he added that "actual field operations using the skills they employed so successfully in Vietnam could not be ruled out, should emergencies arise."

A former officer of the Coronado specialized warfare command said it was "reasonable to assume" that any Seal units assigned to American embassies would work closely with agents of the Central Intelligence Agency, who are listed by many embassies as cultural and commercial attaches.

New York Times