

G.I. Role Reported In Laos Operation; Pentagon Denies It

Reports broadcast by the American Broadcasting Company and the Columbia Broadcasting System yesterday said that American ground troops were taking part in the South Vietnamese incursion into southern Laos, some in South Vietnamese uniforms.

A.B.C. said the body of an American soldier in a South Vietnamese uniform had been flown out of Laos with the bodies of four helicopter crewmen who had been shot down.

C.B.S. said United States helicopters flying South Vietnamese troops into Laos sometimes carried American Special Forces officers, some in South Vietnamese uniforms.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesmen continued to deny that any American ground combat troops were involved in the South Vietnamese operation in Laos. At the White House, Ronald L. Ziegler, the Presidential press secretary, said "Our policy is and will continue to be that there will be no United States combat troops or advisers in Laos."

Howard Tuckner of A.B.C. reported that he had seen what appeared to be an American swimming with two South Vietnamese soldiers 25 miles inside Laos. South Vietnamese riding with Mr. Tuckner said the man was a "G.I. adviser."

"When we tried to jump off the vehicle to speak to him, he ran off into the bush," Mr. Tuckner said.

He said that an American helicopter soon came in to pick up the bodies of some Americans. He said the pilot, who was on the ground for 30 minutes, had told him he was waiting to pick up the bodies of four helicopter crewmen who had been shot down.

The South Vietnamese unexpectedly brought a fifth American body, wearing the uniform of the South Vietnamese airborne troops, Mr. Tuckner said.