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Accused Viet General

Promoted

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Major General Ngo Dzu, accused by an American congressman of being a chief trafficker in narcotics, has been promoted by President Nguyen Van Thieu to the rank of lieutenant general.

Vietnam Press, the government news agency, said yesterday Dzu was one of nine major generals promoted by Thieu.

Representative Robert H. Steele (Rep.-Conn.) told a House foreign affairs subcommittee in July that Dzu was a "chief trafficker" in South Vietnam's narcotics trade. Steele said Dzu's involvement was noted in intelligence reports to U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker.

Dzu repeatedly denied the charges and said they were part of a campaign against him which he described as one of "personal revenge."

The Defense Ministry announced in July that it was investigating the charges but has not released an official report on its findings.

The promotion of Dzu appeared to have the effect of clearing him and giving him a vote of confidence. Dzu is the commander of South Vietnam's Second Military Region, which includes the Central Highlands and the central coastal plain.

Associated Press