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Catholic Aid Under Fire

[WXPost]

Washington

During much of the Vietnam war, Catholic Relief Services abandoned its apolitical humanitarian role and became an adjunct of the American military effort, a leading Catholic weekly has charged.

The charges, which will appear in the next issue of the National Catholic Reporter, grew out of a year-long investigation of Catholic Relief Services by the weekly's Washington correspondent, Richard Rashke.

In his account, Rashke alleges:

• That CRS turned over vast quantities of relief supplies - food, clothing and medicines - to both U.S. and South Vietnamese military units to be used as pay for irregular forces and "incentives" for intelligence gathering.

...

That as much as 90 per cent of the church relief agency's budget came from the U.S. Agency for Informational Development program in Vietnam on a quid pro quo basis which presupposed the church agency would reciprocate "by accepting U.S. policy without criticism and by sharing information with USAID personnel," the Reporter said.

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That CRS "encourzged" its staff members to live rent-free in housing on USAID compounds and used the CIA'S Air America for staff travel and shipment of relief goods.

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[Later clippings on this will be filed  
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