

Role in Chino Escape Denied

By Larry Liebert

Leaders of Venceremos denied yesterday that the Peninsula-based revolutionary group had any part in the bloody escape of Chino prison inmate Ronald Wayne Beaty.

In statements at their Palo Alto storefront office, they accused Beaty of "outright lying" in the confession to authorities that has led to the arrest of 11 associates of the Maoist radical group.

Four of them have been charged with the murder of one unarmed guard and injuring another in the ambush that freed Beaty on October 6 in San Bernardino county. Seven Venceremos members have been charged with harboring Beaty until his capture on December 10.

"Ronald Beaty is an enemy of the people," said Venceremos central committee member Bernard Smallwood. "He has every reason to be afraid for his life, like any enemy of the people."

CAPTURE

Before Beaty's capture and confession, the Venceremos newspaper had praised him as "a revolutionary, a servant of the people" and a man who has won "the love of all prison revolutionaries" through his jailhouse activism.

Although Venceremos members visited and wrote to Beaty, they insisted yesterday that he was only one among a group of prisoners they consider "comrades."

With their usual militant oratory, members charged the "Gestapo in this country" with a "frameup" because "we see acts of repression as part of a whole problem."

H. Bruce Franklin — the former Stanford University professor who is among those charged with harboring Beaty — insisted only "legal" weapons were included in arms caches found in police searches of homes of Venceremos members.

CHARGED

Franklin also charged that Beaty's legally recognized attorneys have been denied the right to see him for more than two weeks.

San Francisco attorney Doron Weinberg, associated with the National Lawyers Guild, charged last night that a bailiff "locked me in a room" to keep him from attending a court appearance by Beaty in San Bernardino last week.

Affidavits by police have denied Beaty's confession was obtained under any threat or coercion.

A major question in the case concerns Beaty's relationship with Jean S. Hobson, the Palo Alto revolutionary who was captured with the escape convict when police stopped their car on the Bay Bridge. The 44-year-old woman is one of the murder suspects in the case.

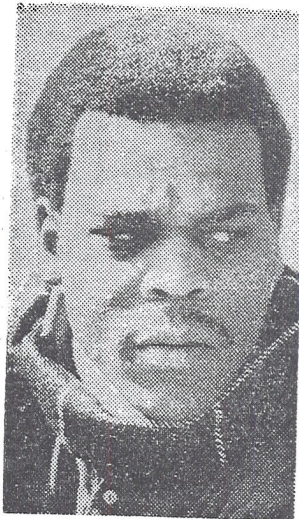
Both police and Venceremos accounts appears to suggest that the housewife-turned-revolutionary was personally — as well as politically — committed to Beaty.

QUIT

Venceremos chairman Katerina dell Valle said yesterday that Mrs. Hobson gave Venceremos her letter of resignation at least two months ago.

She said Mrs. Hobson quit "because she was waging a struggle between her personal and political life. She couldn't follow the discipline of the organization."

Venceremos spokesmen refused to explain what "personal" problems were involved. But one member privately conceded that a romantic link between the two was "one of the possible inferences."



BERNARD SMALLWOOD
He denounced Beaty



KATERINA DELL VALLE
Venceremos chairman

A court transcript released in Palo Alto over the weekend alleged that Mrs. Hobson's dealings toward Beaty put her in trouble with Venceremos.

After a brief trip to Arizona, Mrs. Hobson and the fugitive Beaty returned to the Bay Area, according to testimony from San Bernardino county sheriff's deputy Rod Maniord.

DEPUTY

The deputy said Beaty told him the pair returned to the Bay Area "because Jean had been in disfavor with the Venceremos organization because of her association with him."

"They returned to the San Francisco area to smooth out those differences and reunite with the Venceremos organization," Beaty said, according to Maniord.

VISITS

In addition to regular visits from Mrs. Hobson's 23-year-old son, Bruce, Maniord said, Beaty "was also accompanied at the cabin by Jean Hobson, (who) would spend the nights with him at the cabin."

The deputy said he interviewed Beaty for eight hours on December 15 in the San Bernardino jail.

Maniord said Beaty met Benton Douglas Burt, a Venceremos member charged in the murder of the guard, when both were serving time in the prison at Chino.