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A Secret Prison for Beaty

San Bernardino

Ronald Wayne Beaty pleaded guilty and was immediately sentenced to life in prison here yesterday for his role in the October 6 ambush in which he escaped from two Chicago prison guards, one of whom was killed and the other wounded.

Superior Court Judge Edward P. Fogg agreed to a proposal by Beaty under which two escape charges against him were dropped and the arrangements for his future custody will be kept a secret.

The 35-year-old convict-

ed robber has been referred to as "an enemy of the people" who has "every reason to fear for his life" by spokespersons for the Bay Area Venceremos group, a Maoist organization which, according to police, Beaty claims helped him plot and carry out the ambush and escape.

Eleven members of Venceremos, including former Stanford professor H. Bruce Franklin, were arrested in connection with the escape after Beaty was captured on the Bay Bridge December 11 and gave police what he claimed were details of the

alleged plot.

The 11 have denied Beaty's claims, saying that police are using him to crack down on the militant organization.

Beaty seemed calm and answered questions in a firm voice yesterday as he appeared with his court-appointed attorney, Adrian Smeltzer. He entered a plea of guilty to the first degree murder charge against him and was immediately sentenced to life. Where he serves that term, however, apparently will remain a secret.

The ambush occurred on a

road near the prison at Chino as Beaty was being transported to a court hearing on a previous escape charge. That charge was one of those dropped yesterday.

The prison car containing Beaty and two unarmed guards, Jesus Sanchez, 24, and George J. Fitzgerald, 36, was forced off the road by another vehicle containing four persons, according to authorities. In the blaze of gunfire from the second car, Sanchez was killed and Fitzgerald wounded.

Police say that Beaty became associated with Venceremos while in prison in

1971. Police say he told them he was freed by members of the group and was hidden by them until his capture December 11.

While he was a fugitive, the Venceremos newspaper had referred to Beaty as a man who has "won the love of all prison revolutionaries." *Our Correspondent*