

New Charges Filed by Airman Against Lavelle and 22 Others

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 3—Lonnie D. Franks, the Air Force sergeant who first reported the unauthorized bombing of North Vietnam, filed court-martial charges today at the Pentagon against Maj. Gen. John D. Lavelle and 22 Air Force officers. "I'm filing because the Air Force is still trying to cover up the entire matter," the sergeant declared in an interview. "I'm disgusted and outraged by the injustice of it."

General Lavelle was relieved of his command in Vietnam in March and eventually demoted from four-star rank after an Air Force investigation and a hearing by the Senate Armed Services committee concluded that he was primarily responsible for a series of more than 20 unauthorized attacks over North Vietnam under the guise of "protective reaction." He is now retired on a full general's pension of \$27,000 a year, all but \$2,900 of it tax free on the basis of disability.

Last week the Air Force announced the dismissal of court-martial charges against the

general that had been filed in June by first Lieut. Delbert R. Terrill Jr. Under military law, any enlisted man or officer may file such charges.

Sergeant Franks said that he and his lawyer, William P. Thomas Jr. of Boston, had cited 157 specific allegations against the officers.

In the charge sheets, General Lavelle was accused of 11 violations of military law, including two counts of false swearing. The general specifically was accused of lying when he told the Senators that the military objective of the unauthorized missions "was the destruction of highly effective North Vietnamese weapons systems which were immediately threatening the lives of our fighting men and those of our allies."

Deputies Are Accused

General Lavelle's two key deputies, Maj. Gens. Alton D. Slay and Winston W. Marshall, were each cited by Sergeant Franks on nine counts of misconduct or conspiracy.