

# Felt Actions Necessary, Ex-Beret Says

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BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

"Anything we did in Vietnam we felt was necessary, justified and approved," said former Army Capt. Robert F. Marasco. The tall, dark-haired man who was a key figure in the Green Beret spy case, was relaxing at his parents' home, where he is gradually recovering from critical injuries received in a traffic accident last October.

"We didn't understand it then and we don't think we ever will," he said, spreading his hands wide in a questioning gesture. "We had cahrges read to us and that sort of thing. But the charges were abruptly dropped because, according to Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor, the Central Intelligence Agency would not permit its agents to testify in court."

In late September the eight Green Beret soldiers were returned to the United States and in October Col. Robert Rheault, the commander of the Special Forces in Vietnam, and Marasco resigned their commissions.

Despite the lack of official exoneration, Marasco said he believes a large segment of the American public is in sympathy with him and the other Green Berets.

"I DECIDED that it wasn't the kind of organization I wanted to devote my life to," the 27-year-old Marasco said. "I felt I couldn't work for any kind of organization, military or civilian, that did not stand behind its people."

"I'm not anti-Army or anti-military," he added. "It was just a very unfortunate situation and a few people involved in the situation are not on the top of good-guy list."

AND ALTHOUGH his former employer has talked with him about a supervisory or managerial job, he is not overly enthusiastic about that either. He has thought about working for the CIA but in light of his recent experience, that seems an unlikely possibility.

AND WHEN he was hospitalized, Marasco continued to receive mail from all over the country from people, he said, "who had followed the case and were apparently upset, felt we had got a bad deal."



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
ROBERT F. MARASCO, former Army captain and a key figure in the Green Beret spy case, reads some mail he has received as his parents' home in Bloomfield, N. J., where he is recovering from injuries he received last October in a traffic accident.

In fact, leaving the Army was for Marasco a rather painful experience. He had found military intelligence challenging and he was considered quite good at it.

Before enlisting and going through Officers' Candidate School, Marasco had been a million-dollar-a-year life insur-

"really made me feel great," Marasco said. "I thought, 'maybe everything was worth while after all.'"