

Arrest of Author Of CIA Book Told

Saigon

Immigration police reportedly arrested last night an American writer and former foreign service officer, John D. Marks, who co-authored the controversial book "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence."

No official confirmation of the arrest or details of the charges could be obtained either from the government or from the U.S. Embassy.

But witnesses said they saw Marks and an American traveling companion, Barbara Guss, being taken into custody by policemen at the home of an American friend in Saigon.

Marks was understood to have arrived in South Vietnam Saturday to do research for a magazine article he was planning to write. In a recent conversation, he said that he had interviewed several oppositionists and journalists and had requested appointments with American officials.

From 1966 until shortly

after the Tet offensive in 1968, Marks was stationed in Vietnam as a foreign service officer. Then he returned to Washington, where he was assigned to the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

With Victor Marchetti, who had a 14-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency, Marks wrote the book that the CIA sued to have expurgated. The volume was published by Alfred A. Knopf earlier this year with 168 passages deleted. A subsequent federal court ruling reinstated 140 of the deletions, but the CIA is appealing the decision.

The book deals with the CIA's role in Indochina, describing President Nguyen van Thieu's frequent contacts with the agency, the program of assassination and torture used against suspected Viet Cong and the CIA's alleged dealings in black market Vietnamese currency.

New York Times