

DEC 27 1974
**Arrest of American
Who Wrote of C.I.A.
Reported in Saigon**

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 26—Immigration policemen tonight reportedly arrested an American writer and former Foreign-Service officer, John D. Marks, co-author of the controversial book "The C.I.A. and the Cult of Intelligence."

No official confirmation of the arrest or details of the charges could be obtained either from the Saigon Government or from the United States Embassy, which is usually informed of such action.

But witnesses said they had seen Mr. Marks and an American traveling companion, Barbara Guss, taken into custody by policemen at the home of an American friend on Rue Pasteur in Saigon.

Gathering Research

Mr. Marks was understood to have arrived in South Vietnam last Saturday to do a week's research for a magazine article that he is planning to write. In a recent conversation, he said that he had interviewed several members of the opposition, journalists, and had requested appointments with American officials.

He was stationed in Vietnam as a Foreign-Service officer for 18 months, from 1966 until shortly after the Tet offensive in February, 1968. He then returned to Washington, where he was assigned to the State Department's Bureau of intelligence and Research.

C.I.A. Sued Over Book

With Victor Marchetti, who had a 14-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. Marks wrote the book, which the C.I.A. took legal action to have expurgated. The book, published by Alfred A. Knopf, appeared earlier this year with 168 passages deleted. A subsequent Federal Court ruling reinstated 140 of the deletions, but the intelligence agency is appealing the decision.

The book deals in detail with the role of the agency in Indochina. It says President Nguyen Van Thieu had frequent contacts with the agency, tells of a program of assassination and torture used against suspected Vietcong, and charges that the C.I.A. deal in black-market Vietnamese currency.

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