

8 BERETS FREED; CHARGES DROPPED

Army Acts as CIA Shuns Trial

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Army Monday dropped all charges against six Green Beret officers accused of murdering a Vietnamese counter-spy, explaining that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had refused to let its agents testify at their trial.

Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor ordered the action on grounds that the six Special Forces officers accused of killing alleged double agent Thai Khac Chuyen could not get a fair trial without CIA testimony.

When Armed Services Committee Chairman L. Mendel Rivers announced Resor's action on the floor of the House of Representatives, members broke into applause. About a dozen congressmen then spoke in praise of Resor's decision. None criticized it.

The six men, including the former Green Beret commander in Vietnam, Col. Robert B. Rheault, could have been sent to prison for life if they had been convicted at their court-martial.

The secretary said all the men would be reassigned outside Vietnam.

Two other Green Berets, both enlisted men, against whom charges had been held in abeyance, were also freed by Resor's order.

Controversial from the start, the decision to prosecute the men had been appealed all the way to President Nixon by irate congressmen.

At the White House, Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler said as far as he knew President Nixon had nothing to do with Resor's decision. "This is a matter that has remained in the jurisdiction to which it appropriately belongs," Ziegler said.

Resor did tell Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird

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Power Play on In Bonn

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BONN, Germany — West Germany's two major political parties jockeyed for power Monday with Social Democrat Willy Brandt trying to become the first Socialist chancellor of Germany since 1930.

The government, meanwhile, freed the mark to find its own level.

Neither major party won a clear mandate in Sunday's federal elections. The Christian Democrats of Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and Foreign Minister Brandt's Social Democrats each need the 30 parliamentary seats won by the small Free Democratic party in order to dominate the next government.

The two major parties now are joined in a ruling government coalition.

While top party officials analyzed election results, the government loosed the mark from its fixed exchange rate in an effort to halt speculation against an increase in value.

The present government stays in office until Oct. 19.

Speculators betting the German mark would be revalued upward following Sunday's election had poured more than \$563 million into the market.

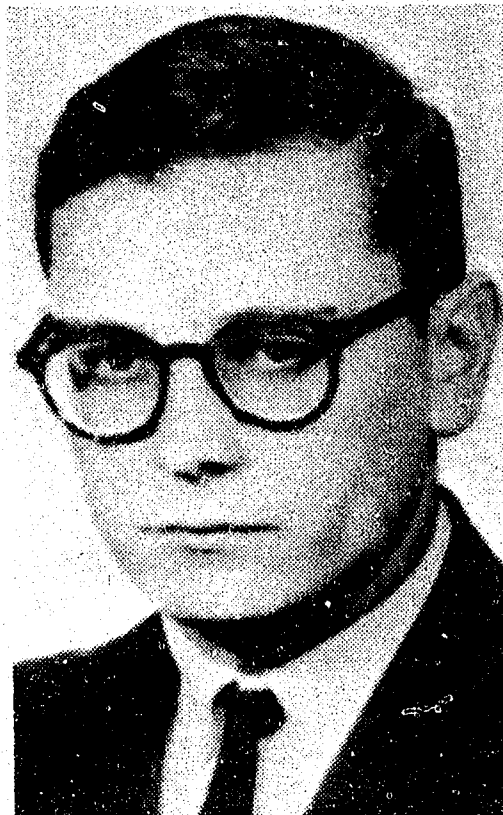
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COL. ROBERT B. RHEAULT



CAPT. ROBERT F. MARASCO



CAPT. BUDGE E. WILLIAMS



MAJ. DAVID E. CREW



MAJ. THOMAS C. MIDDLETON



CAPT. LELAND J. BRUMLEY

Antique Sale A Greek Myth

IRAKLION, Crete (AP) — Summer tourists grabbed at bargains in antiques on the Aegean island of Crete, including vases, jewelry and statuary represented as originals of the Minoan era—3,000 B.C. And they paid fancy prices—about \$330,000.

Now the Greek authorities call it all a fake. Forty so-called antique dealers have been arrested, charged with having replicas of archaeological objects manufactured in secret workshops and representing them as the real thing.

While Russia Keeps Building

Many U.S. Warships Obsolete: Expert

LONDON (AP) — Hundreds of American warships are now so old they are becoming a liability to the United States Navy, Raymond V. B. Blackman, a world authority on naval power, warned Monday.

He said Russia was ahead in new construction and had built a navy "to be reckoned with."

Blackman, writing in the annual "Jane's Fighting Ships,"

which he has edited for 21 years, said:

"The U.S. Navy is the only navy of any consequence which has had recent experience of operating warships in real war conditions. So qualitatively and quantitatively the U.S. Navy ought to be first and foremost among the top navies for several years to come."

"All the same, prodigious

though the recent shipbuilding effort has been, especially in the fields of nuclear powered submarine construction and guided missile development, the U.S. Navy still has not overcome its block obsolescence problem.

"Most of the United States aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, escorts and minesweepers, refitted or not, are a quarter of a century old. War potential

though they could still just be, they are becoming a liability."

Blackman noted that the American taxpayer is "not very enthusiastic about paying for the building of new ships" and referred to statistics showing the Soviet Union has outpaced the United States in new construction.

The Soviet Navy is reported as

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