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PRESS ITEM FOR THE DCI

(A) S W T F

Date: 20 Oct

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A10WX (ATROCITIES, MARINE BJT)

(130) YOUNG- CIA

WASHINGTON, OCT. 20 (AP)-SEN. STEPHEN M. YOUNG, D-OHIO, SAYS HE WAS TOLD BY A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN VIET NAM THAT THE CIA COMMITTED ATROCITIES THERE TO DISCREDIT THE VIET CONG.

YOUNG SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT THE CIA DISGUISED SOME PEOPLE AS VIET CONG AND THEY COMMITTED ATROCITIES, INCLUDING KILLING SOME MEN AND RAPING OF SOME WOMEN.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT FROM THE AGENCY.

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THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT FROM THE AGENCY.

YOUNG, WHO RECENTLY VISITED IN VIET NAM, DID NOT NAME THE CIA OFFICIAL WHO TOLD OF THESE MATTERS. HE TOLD NEWSMEN THE CIA HAS A FORCE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED IN VIET NAM.

STATING THAT HE WANTS THE CIA ACTIVITIES CURTAILED IN VIET NAM, YOUNG SAID HE WILL ASK THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CIA ACTIVITIES. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.

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Comment:

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.

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YOUNG-CIA (270)

WASHINGTON, OCT. 21 (AP)-SEN. STEPHEN M. YOUNG SAYS HE HAS LEARNED THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HIRED SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO DRESS AS VIET CONG AND KILL MEN AND RAPE WOMEN WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF DISCREDITING THE COMMUNISTS. A CIA SPOKESMAN CALLS THE CHARGE "ABSOLUTELY FALSE."

AND REP. CORNELIUS E. GALLAGHER, D-N.J., SAID OF THE OHIO DEMOCRAT'S ALLEGATION YESTERDAY: "IT MAY WELL BE THAT HE SPOKE TO A VIET CONG DISGUISED AS A CIA MAN."

BOTH YOUNG AND GALLAGHER WERE IN SOUTH VIET NAM SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND WERE BRIEFED THERE BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

YOUNG FIRST TOLD NEWSMEN YESTERDAY THAT HE GOT HIS INFORMATION FROM A CIA MAN. LAST NIGHT, HE DENIED HE HAD SAID A CIA MAN WAS HIS SOURCE AND SAID HE GOT HIS INFORMATION FROM AN AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICER. HE DID NOT NAME THE MAN.

NEVERTHELESS, YOUNG SAID, "I CONFIRMED THROUGH THE CIA TODAY THAT IT EMPLOYED SOME SOUTH VIETNAMESE NATIONALS TO POSE AS VIET CONG--AND I TAKE A DIM VIEW OF THAT."

GALLAGHER SAID YOUNG'S STATEMENT "IS APPALLING, AND IT REFLECTS A CARELESSNESS WITH FACTS."

"IT IS OBVIOUS," GALLAGHER SAID IN A STATEMENT, "THAT HE MISUNDERSTOOD THE ESSENCE OF THE BRIEFING OR FAILED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE TERMS OF IDENTIFICATION OF THE OPPOSING FORCES IN VIET NAM. . .NO ONE COULD POSSIBLY CONCEIVE SUCH AN EXERCISE AS SEN. YOUNG DESCRIBES."

YOUNG, A MEMBER OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, SAID HE WILL ASK THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE CIA ACTIVITIES.

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