

BALTIMORE NEWS-AMERICAN (MD)
16 August 1985

Your CIA in (in)action

Col. Charlie Beckwith, the John Wayne-like former Green Beret — he commanded the 1980 hostage-rescue effort that came to grief in the Iranian desert — is out of the Army now and in the security business, whatever that means. Last year in Miami he was approached by some Latin American types, including a general who is now the Honduran military attaché in Chile: Beckwith and another former officer say the general and his friends wanted help in assassinating the Honduran president.

Beckwith wasted no time in telling the CIA — or at least *trying* tell the CIA. The CIA man he knew best was on

vacation but even when the man returned, a secretary told Beckwith sorry, he can't see you for a week. "This is a hell of a way to run a railroad," said Beckwith. Beckwith and the other former officer flew to Washington anyway and finally got to see some CIA officials — who said they'd rather turn the matter over to the FBI. Happily the FBI set up an undercover operation: Two men have been indicted and will stand trial. The Honduran general remains in Chile.

The obvious question: Does the CIA habitually show such a lack of interest when somebody of Beckwith's stature approaches it claiming to have vital information?