

*Post 8-13-69*

## Berets Investigation Is Delayed

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Aug. 12—The Army temporarily has suspended hearings that are being held to determine whether eight members of the U.S. Special Forces (Green Berets) should be court-martialed for allegedly murdering a South Vietnamese civilian, the lawyer for one of the accused said today.

Attorney George W. Gregory, who flew to Vietnam last weekend to defend Maj. Thomas E. Middleton, said he

thought the suspension was for administrative reasons.

Gregory is trying to have his client released from what he called "inhuman" confinement in a maximum security cell at Longbinh. Gregory said the cell is "seven by five feet with a tin roof and hot as hell."

Speculation continued about the identity and role played by the alleged victim. Gregory said yesterday the South Vietnamese was a double agent

working for Hanoi and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Sources in Washington insisted that the CIA had no connection with the case.

Sources in Saigon said today the missing man may be linked with a North Vietnamese spy ring recently reported to have involved a political adviser to President Thieu.

But a high-ranking U.S. official here said the Green Berets case was not linked with the adviser's arrest.