

Victim's Kin Insist Berets Stand Trial

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, Aug. 20—The brother of the apparent victim in the Green Beret murder case said today he will ask the South Vietnamese government to intercede if the Army drops charges against the eight accused Berets.

Reuters reported that Thai Khac Chuong said the family of Thai Khac Chuyen would ask for "the accused men to be tried either by a Vietnamese court of a joint Vietnamese-U.S. court."

Chuong said his father and family were gathering here to decide what to do next. He said, "My brother was an honest man who always told the truth."

"He, myself and my father have been sentenced to death by the Vietcong because of our military service for the government and for being former rich landowners in North Vietnam."

The brother said it was only "coincidence" that two Special Forces camps that Chuyen served in—one in the Ashau Valley and one at Tayninh—were fiercely attacked shortly after he left each.

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Chuyen also was the only Vietnamese present at a briefing given an American general where some secret information leaked out, his brother said, explaining that this may have led to the Beret's suspicion.

The victim's wife, Pham Kim Lien, 30, said she last saw her husband on June 13, when he left for Camp Goodman, a special forces base in Saigon. She said that the day before he had taken a lie detector test at the camp.

A closed hearing at the Longbinh stockade today recessed after six hours. It decides if the Berets will face a court martial for the June 20 killing of a Vietnamese man suspected of being a double agent.

Two civilian attorneys representing four of the eight men said after the recess they were confident the charges would be dropped after the hearing ends Thursday.

One attorney was optimistic that the arrival today of Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor "would be intelligi-

gence and harmony to this unfortunate situation."

The lawyer, Henry B. Rothblatt of New York, described the hearing testimony as "weak and vague as I predicted."

He said no witnesses to the alleged murder were produced by the Army. None of the accused testified today, he said.

There was no official statement on the hearing, conducted in strict secrecy in a stockade chapel, but Reuters reported that one witness was a young enlisted man and one was a civilian Central Intelligence Agency employee.

Resor's visit was planned before the Beret case exploded. He is expected to probe into the charges, which resulted in Col. Robert Rheault, being relieved of his command of all Special Forces troops in Vietnam.

Rothblatt said morale among the seven officers and one enlisted man in the case was high and that they enjoyed the testimony. They were released from solitary confinement and given an air conditioned barracks on Sunday