

Full Probe Called In Berets' Case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon announced today a top level Army effort to determine what information can be released publicly about the highly secret case involving eight Green Berets charged with murdering a Vietnamese man.

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor was scheduled to leave today on an annual trip to the Pacific during which he will receive a first-hand report in Saigon about the Green Beret case, said to involve the killing of a Vietnamese intelligence agent.

At the same time, Resor is sending two Army officers to Vietnam to assemble a dossier on the case to be examined by the Army secretary and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army chief of staff.

“ON THE BASIS of the secretary’s visit and the reports from the two officers, careful review will be made to determine what information may be made public without prejudicing any potential prosecution and without compromising the rights of any

potential defendants,” the Pentagon said.

The Pentagon has provided no substantive details since the Green Berets case broke more than a week ago.

The two officers going to Saigon are Maj. Robert Comeau of the Army’s Judge Advocate General office, and Capt. Stephen M. Sacks of the Army General Counsel Office.

The Pentagon said the two men will only be gathering information and will have no authority or responsibility “with respect to official actions which may be taken with regard to this case.”

EXPLAINING WHY the liaison officers had to go to Saigon for information, the Pentagon said that details of investigations of this sort are not normally forwarded piecemeal to the Pentagon before the investigation has been completed.

At this point, the Green Berets face what amounts to a grand jury proceeding to determine whether they should be court-martialed on charges of murder and conspiracy in the slaying.