

Lawyers Say:

'Weak Case Against Berets'

LONG BINH (Veitnam) — (UPI) — Defense attorneys in the Green Beret murder case predicted today the official investigation will end within 24 hours with a proposal to clear all eight defendants.

"The testimony was as weak and vague as I suspected," said Henry Rothblatt, New York attorney. "They have no case."

The closed hearing at the Long Binh Stockade, 17 miles north of Saigon, involved questioning an agent for the Central Intelligence Agency on its role in the case.

Rothblatt, an unofficial spokesman for the eight Green Berets, predicted a brief session tomorrow will end with the government proposing the case be dropped.

He said the formal paperwork for any such dismissal might take up to three days.

George Gregory, another civilian lawyer, agreed.

"We are happy with the way the case is going," he said. "The investigators have no evidence of anything."

Sources close to the case said the only witness tomorrow will be another CIA agent.

Both civilian lawyers emerged from the stockade with broad grins.

Rothblatt said the investigation was a mistake by the Army — an error in judgment. He said he welcomed the arrival of Army Secretary Stanley Resor.

"I suppose he wants to look at why this unfortunate thing was precipitated," Rothblatt said. "It might be a good idea for him to bring some intelligence and harmony into the situation."

Resor had said on leaving Washington he wanted to look into the case.

The military investigation was "completely full of holes, non-entities, innuendoes, and that is all," Rothblatt said. "They have no evidence."

The eight Green Berets, including the commander of all Special Forces troops in Vietnam, Co. Robert Rheault, were suspected of planning and carrying out the murder of a Vietnamese on June 20 near Nha Trang.