

New Development In Beret Murder

Saigon

An American official paid a visit yesterday to a woman who believes her husband was the victim of the reported slaying in which eight United States soldiers have been detained.

The official, who did not identify himself, went to the Saigon home of Mrs. Phan Kim Lien, who appeared Thursday at the United States Embassy with a four-page letter seeking information on the whereabouts of her husband, Thai Khac Chuyen, and the circumstances in the case of the eight special forces soldiers.

Chuyen, who had worked since 1965 for the special forces, or Green Berets, was summoned to a special forces liaison office in Saigon on June 13, and has not been seen since, according to Mrs. Lien and Chuyen's brother, Thai Khac Choung.

Choung said last night that the American official had told them to address their query about the missing man to the top legal officers of the Military Assistance Command in Vietnam.

Choung, who thinks his 31-year-old brother was the alleged victim in the Green Beret case, said the family would seek the help of the South Vietnamese government in bringing the Green Berets to trial before a Vietnamese court if the Army drops charges against them.

An Army investigation into the case concluded Thursday. Recommendations on whether or not to proceed with a court martial are being drafted.

In an interview, Mrs. Lien said she did not think her husband was a double agent as the alleged victim in the Green Beret case was reported to have been.