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# CIA Tells Its Side Of Story

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency is given a clean bill in the Green Beret mystery story in the newest version of the case told by sources identified as CIA officials.

Defense lawyers for the eight U.S. Special Forces men held by the Army in South Vietnam on charges they murdered a Vietnamese employe said the CIA was involved.

Attorney George W. Gregory said the alleged murder victim was a Communist double agent hired by the CIA. Some Saigon sources said the CIA ordered him killed after films caught him talking with North Vietnamese in Cambodia.

## New Version

Now this version has been made available to newsmen in Washington:

The Vietnamese agent was working for the Green Berets and after he was suspected of being a double agent the Green Beret men asked CIA friends, who were also engaged in undercover work in South Vietnam, what they should do with the suspect.

The CIA officers recommended he be turned over to South Vietnamese authorities, who could pursue the interrogation into the suspect's activities.

Later, one of the eight Green Berets told a CIA colleague the suspect had been killed. The Green Berets had told their Army superiors in

Saigon the suspect had been sent on a mission. The CIA man advised that the true story be told to Army investigators.

## Evidence of Death

An investigator then went to the Green Beret unit and determined to his satisfaction there was evidence the Vietnamese man had died June 20.

In sum, according to this version, the Vietnamese victim was not a CIA employe, the CIA never ordered him killed but only recommended that he be turned over to South Vietnamese officials.

The Green Beret commander, Col. Robert B. Rheault, was relieved of his command July 21 and on Aug. 5 the Army announced the charges against him and the other seven.

The Army inquiry, a military version of a grand jury investigation, ended Aug. 21. It is now up to the investigating officer to recommend whether the accused Special Forces men should be brought to trial.

## Kept Silent

The CIA has maintained its usual public silence in the face of what, in the Green Beret case, it feels have been unfair and untrue versions circulated about alleged CIA complicity. The Army too has been generally mum — issuing no statement about the CIA — on the ground silence should be maintained until the proceedings run their proper course.

Published accounts in today's edition of The New York Times said the CIA version had been made known by high-ranking officials of that intelligence agency in private talks here with newsmen.