

# 'Never Any Doubt' -- Beret Chief

## Viet Widow Bitter Over Release

LONG BINH (Vietnam) — (AP) — The Green Berets officers freed of murder charges celebrated today with a beer bust and prepared to return home, while the widow of their alleged victim sobbed:

"The soul of my husband will follow those who killed him."

The Berets are flying to Travis Air Force Base tonight and are due there at 12:30 a.m. (PDT). They are expected to get 30 days leave before reassignment outside Vietnam.

"The outcome we never doubted at any time," said Col. Robert Rheault, 43, of Vineyard Haven, Mass., after Army Secretary Stanley Resor announced in Washington yesterday that he and five fellow officers would not be court-martialed in the slaying of an alleged Vietnamese double-agent because the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency would not furnish witnesses.

"The only question was how long and how difficult it would be to prove the point," Rheault added as his comrades skylarked for newsmen, drank beer, loudly played the "Ballad of the Green Berets" on a portable

phonograph and got ready to fly home.

### Widow Sobs

A few miles from this military post, Mrs. Pham Kim Lien, widow of the slain Vietnamese, screamed:

"The Americans are worse than the Viet Cong. I'm going to join the Viet Cong. I'm going to blow up the Americans. They are more cruel

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and savage than the Communists."

She collapsed in sobs, saying:

"They eliminated my husband and now they are free. It is not fair. The soul of my husband will follow those who killed them."

Rheault, the slim, blond, crewcut West Pointer who commanded the 3000 Special Forces in Vietnam before he was charged in the case, made his first public statement about the case in a brief news conference.

He said it involved a "penetration agent . . . an agent who has penetrated one of your own operations, who has come under the guise of a friendly individual."

Asked whether Thai Khac Chuyen, the Vietnamese who the Army said was slain by the Green Beret last June 20, was such an agent, Rheault said:

"I believe so."

He also was asked whether he could think of any circumstances "under which homicide might be justifiable in espionage work."

Replied Rheault, "I don't think you can make the terminology homicide. War is a difficult and dangerous business. People get killed in war. This is not to be considered homicide."

Besides Rheault, the officers facing court-martial in the case were Maj. Thomas Middleton Jr., 29, of Jefferson, S.C.; Maj. David Crew, 33, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Capt. Leland Brumley, 27, of Duncan, Okla.; Capt. Budge Williams, 27, of Athens, Ga., and Capt. Robert Marasco, 27, of Bloomfield, N.J.



**FORMER BERET COMMANDER ROBERT RHEAULT**

Cleared of charges, he'll be reassigned

—AP Photo



**Widow of double agent, bitter with Americans, says she will join Viet Cong**

—AP Photo