

Berets Ask A Clearer Vindication

NEW YORK — (AP) — An attorney in the Green Beret case said today that seven of the men involved are "very dissatisfied" with the statement by Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor in dropping the murder charges against them.

Attorney Henry D. Rothblatt said Berets feel they are still tainted with an "implication of guilt" in the alleged slayings of a Vietnamese civilian, reputed double agent, and that Resor should have stated that "there was a complete lack of evidence and that these men had committed no crime."

"Instead," Rothblatt said, "he made the unfair statement that the Army dropped the charges only because the CIA would not testify."

Rothblatt made his comments to newsmen at Kennedy Airport after returning from San Francisco. He met seven of the returning Green Berets yesterday at Travis Air Force Base. The men have gone on 30-day leaves.

The attorney told newsmen in California that the eighth man, Sgt. I.C. Alvin L. Smith, Naples, Fla., had gone to top Army authorities with the story of the alleged killing. Smith took a separate flight home.

"Smith was afraid the others were going to knock him off," Rothblatt said.

When Smith arrived at Travis Air Force Base, he responded "that's not true" when asked about reports he had been willing to testify against the others.

Asked whether he had evidence that could have been used against the others, Smith said:

"I believe the others thought I did."