

CONGRESSIONAL 'RIGHT'**Berets Case Probe
In Order, CO Says**

By RICK MERRON

NHA TRANG, Vietnam (AP)—Col. Robert B. Rheault's successor as commander of the Green Berets in Vietnam said today he would not object to a congressional investigation of the case against Rheault and seven other Special Forces men accused with him of murdering a Vietnamese man.

"Congress has a right to know what we do—we work for Congress," said Col. Alexander Lemberes, 43.

A civilian attorney for one of the eight accused men, Maj. Thomas C. Middleton Jr. of Jefferson, S. C., called yesterday for a congressional investigation of the mysterious case. He charged that Middleton was being "sacrificed" for political reasons and implied that the Army was covering up for the

Central Intelligence Agency.

LEMBERES, of Sparks, Nev., took command of the 5th Special Forces Group in June when Rheault, six other Green Beret officers, and a sergeant were arrested. They are being held in the Long Binh stockade, north of Saigon, while the Army decides whether to bring them to trial on charges of conspiring in the murder of an unidentified Vietnamese.

The Vietnamese is believed to have been exposed as a double agent working for the Americans and the Communists. Informed military sources said yesterday his killing was an assigned "military mission," and Middleton's civilian attorney, George W. Gregory of Cheraw, S.C., said "the CIA was very gravely involved."

Lemberes said in an interview he could not understand the manner in which U.S. Army authorities had handled the case. Although he conceded that "they have the facts and figures," and he he does ot.

Meanwhile, Gregory awaited a decision on his petition for the immediate release from custody of Middleton. The attorney contends the detention of the men while the Army makes up its mind whether to try them is illegal.

U.S. OFFICIALS in Saigon familiar with the case said they felt Gregory "tended to exaggerate" in his charges against the military's conduct of the case. One of these sources denied that the CIA was involved.

"He can say almost anything he wants to with impunity. The Army is in a predicament in the case because of all the publicity, and it wouldn't touch him no matter what he says."