

Green Beret Decision to Take Time

SAIGON — (UPI) — It will take at least five days to find out what the Army is going to do about the eight U.S. Special Forces officers accused of murdering a Vietnamese civilian, a U.S. military spokesman said today.

“There are at least 450 to 500 pages of testimony to be typed,” he said. “That alone will probably take five days.”

After the testimony has been prepared, Col. Harold D. Seaman of Hampton, Va., chairman of the investigation, will make his recommendation whether to drop the charges or go ahead with a court martial of the Green Berets.

The recommendation will go to Maj. Gen. G. L. Mabry, commander of the Army support troops in Vietnam, for a final decision.

The Army finished the investigation yesterday. Lawyers for the accused predicted the Army will dismiss the whole thing.

“Any trial would be a disaster for the Army,” said Henry E. Rothblatt of New York City. “They have no evidence.”

George Gregory of Cheraw, S.C., lawyer for one of the accused, has said the man the Army said was killed worked as a double agent, for both North Vietnam and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Gregory said the military has been unable to find a body or produce any evidence the man it said was killed ever lived in the first place.