

CIA Aide Lied, Berets Attorney Says

NEW YORK — (AP) — A lawyer for three of eight Army Green Berets charged with murdering a Vietnamese, reportedly a double agent, says a Central Intelligence Agency representative "lied" at a pretrial hearing last week to "cover up for his own mistakes and stupidity."

"The CIA," said attorney Henry B. Rothblatt, "distorted information to precipitate the hearing. Then, on cross examination, a representative of the agency was caught in lies and hid behind executive privilege."

Rothblatt returned yesterday from Saigon and said he is confident the Army will drop charges against the eight Special Forces members "within a week."

No Proof

"They just don't have any evidence," he said of the Army.

Rothblatt said he could not discuss details of the case because they were classified by the military.

He said, however, the case was fouled up by "incompetents on one level advising incompetents on a higher level."

The Vietnamese the Berets are accused of killing last June 20 was reportedly working for both the CIA and the North Vietnamese.

Some sources have said the CIA advised that the man be "eliminated," and that after he was shot and his body dumped into the South China

Sea, the CIA rescinded the death order and gave new instructions to spare him.

Berets Chief

The eight Green Berets, including Col. Robert B. Rheault, commander of all

Special Forces in Vietnam, were subsequently arrested and charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

"Their attitude," Rothblatt said, "was, 'Well, anything

can happen in war.'"

Rothblatt represents Capt. Leland Brumley of Duncan, Okla.; Maj. David Crew of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and CWO Edward Boyle of New York City.