

RESOR GETS PLEA ON GREEN BERETS

8 Representatives Ask Him to Assume Direct Control

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 17— Eight Representatives have urged Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor to assume direct jurisdiction over the Green Beret case.

Relying upon a provision in military law that permits the Secretary to convene a court-martial under his direct supervision, they urged him to exercise "your responsibility as a civilian authority over the army."

The case involves eight members of the Army's Special Forces Green Berets. They have been accused of murder and conspiracy in the killing on June 20 of a Vietnamese suspected of being a double agent.

The appeal to Mr. Resor, sent to him in a letter dated Sept. 9, was made public today at a news conference held by five of the eight House members. The legislators appeared to be acting out of concern that the army was leaning toward a decision to prosecute the soldiers.

The letter expressed doubts "as to the ability of the commanders in the field to conduct a fair and impartial proceedings."

Use as 'Scapegoats' Seen

In a statement issued with it, the legislators said they were concerned that the accused soldiers would become "scapegoats" to cover up "mistakes, mishandling, incompetence and rivalries within the army and related Government agencies."

The news conference was held by Representatives Peter Rodino of New Jersey, Paul Rodgers of Florida, Clarence Long of Maryland and John Flynt and Robert Stephens Jr. of Georgia.

The others who signed the letter were Carl Albert of Oklahoma, John Culver of Iowa and Tom Gettys of South Carolina.

All are Democrats and all except Mr. Flynt have constituents among the men arrested.

The army placed the men in a stockade in July when it initiated a still unfinished investigation.

In the interim, there have been charges of Central Intelligence Agency involvement. The C.I.A. has said one of its agents in Vietnam advised some of the accused members of the Special Forces not to proceed with plans to kill the alleged double agent, but that such plans were carried out despite the advice.

Mr. Rogers charged that the South Vietnamese Government was using its influence to have the soldiers court-martialed.

This decision is under consideration by army commanders in South Vietnam. If convicted, the defendants could be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

"There have been numerous reports, nothing I can tie to directly, that the South Vietnamese want this trial carried out," Mr. Rogers said.