

U.S. Denies Saigon Demanded Recall Of Three Officials

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Sept. 14—A United States Embassy spokesman denied today that the South Vietnamese Government had demanded the recall of a diplomat and two intelligence officers because of suspicion that the United States was negotiating with representatives of an autonomy movement among the Montagnards, mountain tribesmen, in the Central Highlands.

The spokesman said that the three had been removed from their positions in Darlac Province and transferred to Saigon "at the request of the Vietnamese Government in order to remove any misunderstanding between ourselves and the Vietnamese and the Montagnards."

One of the officials, William F. Beachner, an embassy political officer who had been

serving as an adviser to the chief of Darlac Province left Vietnam early this month "at the end of his normal tour of duty," the spokesman said.

The two other officials, an Australian and an American employed by a United States intelligence agency, are still in the country, the spokesman added.

Reliable sources said Sunday that the South Vietnamese Government had demanded the recall of the three men because it suspected that they had been involved in negotiations with a Montagnard organization called the Unified Front for the Liberation of the Oppressed Races, known by the name Fulro, from the French words for the title. Fulro is demanding that the South Vietnamese grant the Montagnards an autonomous state in the highlands.

Although the spokesman did not say so, it is also believed that a United States Army officer, who was military adviser to the chief of Darlac Province, and two American Special Forces officers were removed because of Saigon pressure on the United States mission here.