

Lover of Peace Slain in Battle

Stanley Studebaker removed his glasses and wearily rubbed his face with hands cracked from years of farming. "It's a bad situation when they kill a man who's working for peace," he said softly.

The news of his son's death in Vietnam was only 24 hours old and neither he nor his wife had had much sleep.

Ted Alan Studebaker, 25 and one of eight children of the Union couple, was killed when the Viet Cong overran the village of Di Linh.

TED HAD BEEN in the Vietnamese hill country village, 140 miles northeast of Saigon, for the past two years as a Church World Services social worker. All the Studebaker family members have been lifetime members of the Church of the Brethren, sponsors of the service.

Ted became a CWS worker after successfully applying for a conscientious objector status in the draft.

"We got a letter from him just half an hour ago," Mrs. Studebaker said this morning. "It was written on the 19th. In it he said he was sending pictures and a tape recording of his wedding."

EIGHT DAYS ago Ted married a co-worker, Lee Ven Pak, at Di Linh in a wedding he described in the letter as "represented by 11 countries and 13 language groups."

The couple had been back from their honeymoon only one day when Ted was killed. "His new wife is coming back with the body, so I guess she'll bring those things with her," Mrs. Studebaker said. The bride is a native of Hong Kong.

Mrs. Studebaker said her son always had been a compassionate person but became consumed with the idea of a career in social work while attending Manchester college, in Indiana.

"He finished in three years and then immediately went for his masters in social work at the University of Florida," she said. The state of Alabama paid his tuition at Florida in

return for Ted's promise to eventually accept an assignment in Alabama social work.

Mrs. Studebaker said he probably would have gone there after his Vietnam assignment.

She said he recently signed up for one more year in Vietnam because "he had become so involved with the project and the people he just didn't feel he could leave yet."