

FPost
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Aide Quits LBJ Camp Because Of "Military" Attitude

WASHINGTON (AP)—A former top State Department official says he quit the Johnson administration because it took a military approach to victory in Vietnam—a course he believes President John F. Kennedy would have tried to avoid.

Roger Hilsman, former assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs, also suggested that despite administration comments to the contrary, President Johnson decided to launch regular bombing of North Vietnam before Hanoi began mass infiltration of men and supplies southward. The administration has said the bombing was in retaliation for Hanoi's aggression.

Hilsman said the bombing was aimed at forcing Hanoi to its knees.

President Kennedy "was skeptical of a policy of escalation and of the effectiveness of an air attack on North Vietnam," Hilsman said.

Hilsman appeared on the CBS program "Face the Nation" Sunday and talked about his new book, "To Move a Nation."

Several other prominent officials spoke out Sunday on Vietnam and the Middle East crisis in radio-television appearances, commencement exercises and speeches.

One of those discussing the bombing of North Vietnam was Bill D. Moyers, Johnson's former press secretary.

He told a St. Michael's College commencement audience in Winooski, Vt., that the so-called hawks should recognize power has its limits while the doves, or peace advocates, should concede power has its place.

In nearby Northfield, Vt., Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor told Norwich University graduates the Vietnam war will test the constancy of the United States in staying with the South Vietnamese until the goals of both have been achieved.

But in Hartford, Conn., Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., said that "increasingly, the war in Vietnam is an American effort on Asian soil, rather than an

Asian effort with American help."

The U.S. commitment in the Far East, he said at Trinity College, adversely affects its position in Europe and the Middle East.

Percy did endorse U.S. involvement in the Middle East crisis, saying Israel's right to use the Gulf of Aqaba must be preserved.

Sens. Hugh Scott, R-Pa., Daniel B. Brewster, D-Md., and Harrison A. Williams, D-N.J., making speeches in their states, urged President Johnson to pursue multination action with other maritime powers to end Egypt's proclaimed blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli ships and any ships carrying strategic goods to Israel.