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JOINT CHIEFS URGED INVASION OF NORTH

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (UPI)—The Joint Chief of Staff on occasion recommended a South Vietnamese invasion of North Vietnam, Adm. Thomas H. Moorer said in testimony made public today.

Admiral Moorer, Chairman of

the Joint Chiefs, told a House Appropriations defense subcommittee Jan. 9 that he "always thought an invasion of North Vietnam would be a desirable move from the strictly military viewpoint."

Asked if the Chiefs advocated a land invasion of the North as a means of outflanking the enemy, Admiral Moorer said, "Yes, sir; on occasion, we have

recommended the flanking movement you talk about."

Admiral Moorer stressed before the committee that the war was "not fought in accordance with basic military principles alone." He said there were "many, many political complications that the United States struggled with" that he said made it necessary to fight the

war on a "principle of gradualism."

"The policy followed by those that were making the decisions in the years gone by," he said, "was to do everything they could to contain the war in the smallest sense possible."

Admiral Moorer testified before the committee in a closed session. A transcript of the briefing was released today.