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## Gavin Tells of '54 Talk Of Invading N. Vietnam

NEW YORK, Feb. 12 (AP)—Former Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin said today that in 1954 the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other high military men "strongly favored landing a force in the Haiphong-Hanoi area, even at the risk of war with Red China."

Gavin said in a copyrighted article in the Saturday Evening Post that the idea of invading North Vietnam 14 years ago, just after the French were defeated there, was favored by Adm. Arthur W. Radford, head of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Air Force Chief of Staff, and Adm. Robert B. Carney, Chief of Naval Operations.

Strong opposition came from the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, Gavin said, and President Eisenhower decided not to commit U.S. forces to Southeast Asia.

"However, there was a promise," Gavin added. "We decided to support what he hoped would be a stable, representative, independent government in South Vietnam. The fact that this was contrary to the Geneva accords seemed irrelevant."