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Pentagon Adviser Sees Error In U.S. Bids for Peace Talks

NEW YORK, March 9 (AP) — An adviser to the Pentagon said today in a religious publication that the United States is making a mistake by “constantly offering to negotiate” in Vietnam. He suggested that there should be “a sharp, potentially uncontrollable increase in threat.”

“If the main purpose (of the bombing) is to put pressure on North Vietnam to back down, then it is being done very badly,” said Herman Kahn, a founder and director of the Hudson Institute, a nonprofit policy research center that has the Pentagon as one of its major clients.

Kahn set forth his views in an interview with *New*, a publication produced jointly by

the Roman Catholic Maryknoll fathers and the overseas mission of the United Presbyterian Church. An official of the publication dissociated the Church groups from Kahn’s views.

Kahn, author of “On Escalation,” said he was against the bombing of North Vietnam in principle, but felt it should be done differently if it was aimed at promoting U.S. strategy. He said, for one thing, that the United States had failed to make clear any limited demands.

“We have simply made it clear that we will stop the bombing if they sit down and talk peace,” he said. “And this would require the North Vietnamese to come to the confer-

ence table in an attitude of weakness — admitting, in effect, that they can’t stand being bombed. And they are not likely to do that, especially since the actual effective psychological pressures upon them are low. At no point was there a sharp, potentially uncontrollable increase in threat which might raise anxiety about points of no return.

“The bombing has been stepped up in a very gradual way that has looked very controlled to almost everyone. It looks as though our strategists are following a book. And if you are using escalation as a pressure tactic, you should not look as though you’ve read a book. It reassures the opponent.”