

Johnson Hit On Viet Aim By Goodwin

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6 (AP)—Former presidential assistant Richard N. Goodwin accused the Johnson Administration tonight of wanting a complete military victory in Vietnam rather than a negotiated settlement of the war.

"We have not made up our mind to accept a negotiated settlement at all," said the former Kennedy and Johnson aide. "We want a victory."

Goodwin, who has previously criticized Administration policy on Vietnam, spoke to the Northern California Americans for Democratic Action.

The U.S. commitment is "to protect the South Vietnamese from forcible conquest and to give them the opportunity to shape their own affairs," Goodwin said. "It is not a commitment to destroy the Vietcong or defeat North Vietnam or eliminate all Communists."

"Yet it now seems that our policy is to seek military victory—a victory which is neither possible without huge armies nor essential to our interests. . . ."

"No one can guarantee that the North Vietnamese will negotiate under any circumstances. But we do know that war had been enlarged "beyond the necessities of our inmaximum skill and wisdom. We do know that, when it seemed negotiation might be near, we consistently increased our demands."

Richard Goodwin comments on the necessity of dissent.
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