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Stratton Criticizes Army For Clearing Gen. Koster

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (AP) —Representative Samuel S. Stratton, Democrat of upstate New York, criticized today the Army's recent decision to drop charges against Maj. Gen. Samuel W. Koster of covering up the alleged Mylai massacre in Vietnam.

Mr. Stratton, in a speech for the House, said that the decision, made last Friday, "will rise up to haunt the entire military establishment in months to come, and may very likely end up doing even more serious damage to America's military posture and prestige than did the Army's original handling of the Mylai affair."

Action clearing General Koster of allegations that, while in

Vietnam with the Americal Division, he prevented reports of the alleged massacre from reaching his superiors, was taken by Lieut. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman. General Seaman is currently General Koster's immediate superior at the First Army Headquarters at Fort Meade, Md.

General Seaman's statement had declared that General Koster "did not show any intentional abrogation of responsibilities."