

## Senator

## Reveals

## A-Alert

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Top-secret Pentagon papers made public by Sen. Mike Gravel today disclose early, high level U.S. talk of using nuclear weapons in the Vietnam war if escalation brought about a major attack by Red Chinese forces.

"We would not allow ourselves to be bled white fighting them with conventional weapons," Dean Rusk, then Secretary of State, told Premier Nguyen Khanh of South Vietnam as quoted in a cable to Washington by Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.

"This meant," the cable added, "that if escalation brought about a major Chinese attack, it would also involve the use of nuclear arms."

## In Session

The Lodge account of the Rusk-Khanh meeting in Saigon was contained in portions of the Defense Department's study of Vietnam policy development which Gravel read into the record of a Senate subcommittee last night. Gravel (Dem-Alaska) had declared the subcommittee in session as a one-man hearing.

The contingency reference by Rusk to using nuclear

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weapons was paralleled by some other disclosures.

One was a message to U.S. ambassadors in six capitals which showed that 24 hours before President Johnson launched his only successful peace talk bid of the war, he sent word to allied leaders that it would probably fail.

As part of the diplomatic preparations for Johnson's March 31, 1968, speech, which led to the Paris talks, his State Department sent the government chiefs of six countries participating in the war a secret preview.

## Hanoi Reaction

Instructions given to U.S. Ambassadors in their capitals said:

"You should make clear that Hanoi is most likely to denounce the project and thus free our hand after a short period.

"Nevertheless, we might wish to continue the limitation on bombing the North even after a formal denunciation in order to reinforce its sincerity and put the monkey firmly on Hanoi's back for whatever follows."

Most of what Gravel read

had already been revealed by the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Chicago Sun-Times and other papers.

Some of the highlights:

- The U.S. urged France at first to be "more than generous" in trying to settle the French-Vietnamese war, but by the early 1950s sided entirely with the French and against Ho Chi Minh, the late North Vietnamese leader.

- South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem refused to agree to or even consult with the North Vietnamese about nationwide elections as called for by the 1954 Geneva conventions.

- Dissident South Vietnamese generals planning the 1963 coup against Diem were in touch with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge more than two months before Diem was assassinated.

- Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara recommended that President Kennedy combine any commitment of American troops in Indochina "with a willingness to attack North Vietnam," but changed his mind three days later.