

## A Blast at LBJ

# Hilsman: 'A Dirty Deal'

NEW YORK — (CDN) —

Roger Hilsman, former top State Department aide, today blasted former President Johnson for what he called Johnson's attempts to discredit the Kennedy Administration role in Vietnam.

Hilsman, author of two 1963 State Department memos that received national publicity today, described the use of these memos as "a dirty deal" designed to link Kennedy with revelations in the suppressed Pentagon Papers. He called for full publication of the Pentagon report.

"I resigned Lyndon Johnson's Administration in 1964 in disagreement with making Vietnam an American war," Hilsman said.

### Contingency Plans

He added that the two controversial memos were drafted as "contingency plans" at the request of Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and were not recommendations for action.

Hilsman said his memos were not intended to advocate U.S. participation in any military coup against South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem or his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu.

### Justify Position

He said that in 1968, when antiwar fever was raging, Johnson assigned a White House aide, J. T. Roche, to comb Kennedy Administration documents "to get something that would do damage to his critics and justify his position on the war."

Johnson declassified the Hilsman memos Feb. 14, 1968.

Hilsman said Johnson and Rusk "were all upset" at the recent disclosures of part of the Pentagon Papers. He said Roche has been mailing copies of the memos to various persons and even wrote

a recent article in the New York Times Sunday Magazine quoting from the memos.

### Dirty Deal

"The point here is that Johnson (through Roche) was leaking individual documents to damage critics of the war . . . but no one printed it (so fully) until now" because of the furor over the Pentagon Papers, Hilsman said.

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