

Coast Paper Says U.S. Barred Aide's '63 Plan to Quit Vietnam

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The New York Times is restrained by Federal court order from publishing further articles in its Vietnam series. This dispatch was based on an article in The Los Angeles Times and was distributed by The Associated Press to all its newspaper, radio and television subscribers.

LOS ANGELES, June 24 (AP)—The Los Angeles Times reported in today's issue that the National Security Council rejected a recommendation by a State Department expert in 1963 that the United States should pull out of Vietnam because it could not win the war against the Communists.

The newspaper said it learned of that facet of the war in studying what it termed previously unpublished sections of the secret Pentagon report on American involvement in Vietnam.

The newspaper said that the recommendation had been submitted by Paul M. Kattenburg, then head of the State Department's Vietnam Working Group.

Mr. Kattenburg's suggestion was overruled by Secretary of State Dean Rusk, who reportedly viewed it as "speculative," the newspaper said.

The Secretary of State was quoted as having said that "it would be far better for us to start on the firm basis of two things—that we will not pull out of Vietnam until the war is won, and that we will not run a coup."

Supported by Johnson

Mr. Rusk, the newspaper added, was supported in his view by Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

The report on the National Security Council's session on the matter is contained in a memorandum written by Lieut. Gen. Victor H. Krulak of the Marines, who was the Pentagon's top expert on counter-insurgency warfare, The Los Angeles Times said.

The council meeting, the newspaper said, was a key session held after a group of South Vietnamese generals had failed to stage a coup against the South Vietnamese Government headed by President Ngo Dinh Diem. Mr. Diem was later overthrown and assassinated.

Mr. Kattenburg was quoted by General Krulak as having suggested at the Security Council meeting that "at this juncture it would be better for us to make the decision to get out immediately," The Los Angeles Times reported.

President Diem's last hours, three months after the National Security Council meeting and before his overthrow and assassination in November, 1963, also were revealed in the Pentagon-Vietnam study, the newspaper reported.

Mr. Diem telephoned Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., United States Ambassador to South Vietnam, from the Saigon Presidential Palace while the building was under siege by rebel generals, The Los Angeles Times said.

The rebellious generals reportedly had promised Mr. Diem and his brother, head of the secret police, safe conduct out of the country.

The study indicated that Mr. Lodge's role was to conceal that American officials had been in close contact with the plotters and to conceal the United States Government's position that the coup was desirable if it could succeed, the newspaper said.

President Kennedy, according to the study, was "personally stunned" by Mr. Diem's death "particularly in view of the heavy United States involvement in encouraging the coup leaders," the newspaper reported.

"It was Kattenburg's view," the paper said General Krulak had reported to the Security Council, "that Diem will get little support from the military and, as time goes on, he will get less and less support and the country will go steadily downhill."