

## 'Weird' Route to Viet Decisions Reported

New York

White House decision-making on the Vietnam war in 1964 and 1965 was a "weird, almost Byzantine and serpentine process" of intense debate among advisers "who never all sat down in the same room," George Reedy said yesterday.

Reedy, a one-time press secretary of former President Johnson, said in an NBC interview that the former President was, at the time, "a very tense, very torn man" who "didn't want to

become involved" in the war but who made his own decision based on a flood of memoranda and private conversations that yielded contradictory advice.

Once Mr. Johnson made key commitments deepening American involvement in the war, Reedy said, he "tended to gather around him those who favored his initial decision and eliminated those who disagreed.

"This," he said, "intensified the commitments. That's the story of the Vietnam war."

*Associated Press*