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(500) WASHINGTON ROUNDUP

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, MARCH 9 (AP)-VIET NAM DEFOLIATION: THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY ONLY 20,000 ACRES -- ONE THIRD OF 1 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL AREA UNDER CULTIVATION IN VIET NAM -- HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO CHEMICAL DEFOLIATION TREATMENT.

PRESS OFFICER ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY SAID THE WHITE HOUSE HAD SENT TO A HUNGER-STRIKING NEW YORK CITY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT AN EXPLANATION OF HOW AND WHY THE UNITED STATES, WITH VIETNAMESE PARTICIPATION, IS USING THIS WEAPON AGAINST COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS.

THE ARCHITECT, ROBERT L. NICHOLS, 46, WHO HAS FASTED SINCE FEB. 28, WROTE TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON ASKING HOW HE COULD JUSTIFY DEFOLIATION AND DESTRUCTION OF CROPS IN VIET NAM WITH THE U. S. PROGRAM OF INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION.

MCCLOSKEY SAID THE AREAS WHERE THE DEFOLIANTS ARE USED ARE REMOTE AND THINLY POPULATED. HE ALSO SAID THE CHEMICALS ARE NON-TOXIC AND NOT DANGEROUS TO MAN OR ANIMALS.

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SCHWARTZ: SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, D-N.Y., CALLED TODAY FOR A THOROUGH EXAMINATION BY CONGRESS OF ANY REORGANIZATION PLAN ABOLISHING THE STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS.

KENNEDY SAID THE RESIGNATION OF ABBA P. SCHWARTZ AS HEAD OF THE BUREAU RAISES "SERIOUS QUESTIONS." SCHWARTZ WHO HEADED THE BUREAU SINCE 1962, SAID HE RESIGNED BECAUSE HIS JOB WAS BEING ABOLISHED.

KENNEDY SAID IN A STATEMENT "ABBA SCHWARTZ MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO LIBERALIZATION OF OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY ... HIS DEPARTURE IS A LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT HE SERVED AND TO THIS NATION OF IMMIGRANTS."

SCHWARTZ, IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION OF MARCH 5, GAVE AN ACCOUNT TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON OF "WHAT WE HAVE AND HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH." HE RELEASED THE TEXT OF HIS LETTER TODAY.

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GORDON: LINCOLN GORDON, ECONOMIST AND ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS