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RFK's Tie to War Study Is Denied

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Pierre Salinger, the former U.S. presidential press secretary, said yesterday that former President Johnson "degrades the presidency" with statements he reportedly made this week about the Pentagon study of the United States involvement in Vietnam.

"Anyone who has known Lyndon Johnson," Salinger said, "will recognize the true author of the amazing statement printed in Newsweek and attributed to friends working from behind the cloak of anonymity."

The Newsweek magazine article had portrayed Mr. Johnson as feeling that the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy "may well have inspired" the Pentagon study to obtain political ammunition for his intended campaign for the presidency in 1968. The article asserted that Mr. Johnson's views had been conveyed by "those in Austin privy to his feelings."

Salinger, who was press secretary to both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, commented in a statement issued here, where he is a public relations consultant.

"This frantic new effort to rewrite history is completely consistent with the continuing effort of the former President to shift responsibility for his actions to his advisers," Salinger said.

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