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From UPI story, datelined London, on L. Fletcher Prouty, described as "a former Pentagon liaison officer with the Central Intelligence Agency ... retired U.S. Air Force colonel and the director of special operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1962 and 1963":

Prouty ... said ranking defense leaders were "bypassed" by CIA operatives.

Citing The New York Times articles on the Pentagon papers, Prouty said the names of Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1960-62, and Admiral Arleigh Burke, chief of naval operations [garbled] other top generals - key men in our staff - never appear in the documents, never appear in the meeting minutes, never appear in any of the planning conferences of this Vietnam buildup.

"I would say there's no other positive effort, nothing so solid as this for proof that there [these?] basic military elements were not considered in this area," he said.

Prouty said that when former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara went to Vietnam on a fact-finding mission in December, 1963, he received a briefing prepared in Washington, instead of the field.