

Spy Chiefs

SFChronicle

DEC 4 1975

'Public Not Misled On Viet Cong'

Washington

Intelligence chiefs yesterday denied a charge that enemy strength in Vietnam was deliberately down-graded to delude the press, public and Congress.

The details came from Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby and Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lieutenant General Daniel O. Graham in testimony before the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

Samuel A. Adams, a former CIA analyst, had told the panel that official enemy strength estimates before the crucial 1968 Tet Offensive stood at 300,000, roughly half of what he thought they were.

Colby and Graham maintained that estimates comparable to Adams' were available to the public depending on whether such troops as the Viet Cong militia were included.

President Johnson noted in

his biography that the Tet attacks "were more massive than we anticipated."

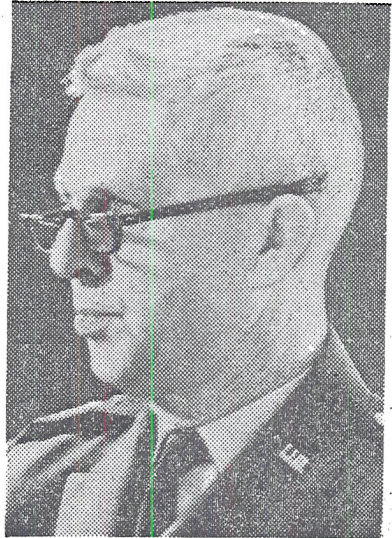
Colby and Graham also maintained that sufficient alert of the imminence of the Communist attacks had been relayed to U.S. forces.

Representative Morgan F. Murphy (Dem-Ill.) told Graham that a text in use at the U.S. Military Academy refers to the Tet Offensive as a failure of intelligence comparable to Pearl Harbor.

"well, they shouldn't do that," said Graham, "because that's wrong."

Representative James P. Johnson (Rep-Colo.) said the panel is in possession of classified documents that "tend to substantiate the feeling that the American people had been misled."

Panel chairman Representative Ottis Pike (Dem-N.Y.) said



UPI Telephoto

DANIEL O. GRAHAM
The general testified

"all the good news seemed to be unclassified and the bad news classified."

Pike said a secret cable of General Creighton Abrams to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in August 1967 explained the strength estimates chiefly in the light of how they would be treated in the press.

Associated Press

Canadian Coast Montreal

Canada's shoreline stretches 156,000 miles.

Reuters