

# The Lie Detector

Minority of One, Feb 1968

THE LIAR'S ABSENTMINDEDNESS IS A BLESSING; IT OFTEN LEADS US TO THE TRUTH

## WESTMORELAND'S "REMARKABLE PROGRESS"

From a Washington dispatch in *The New York Times* of December 20, 1967:

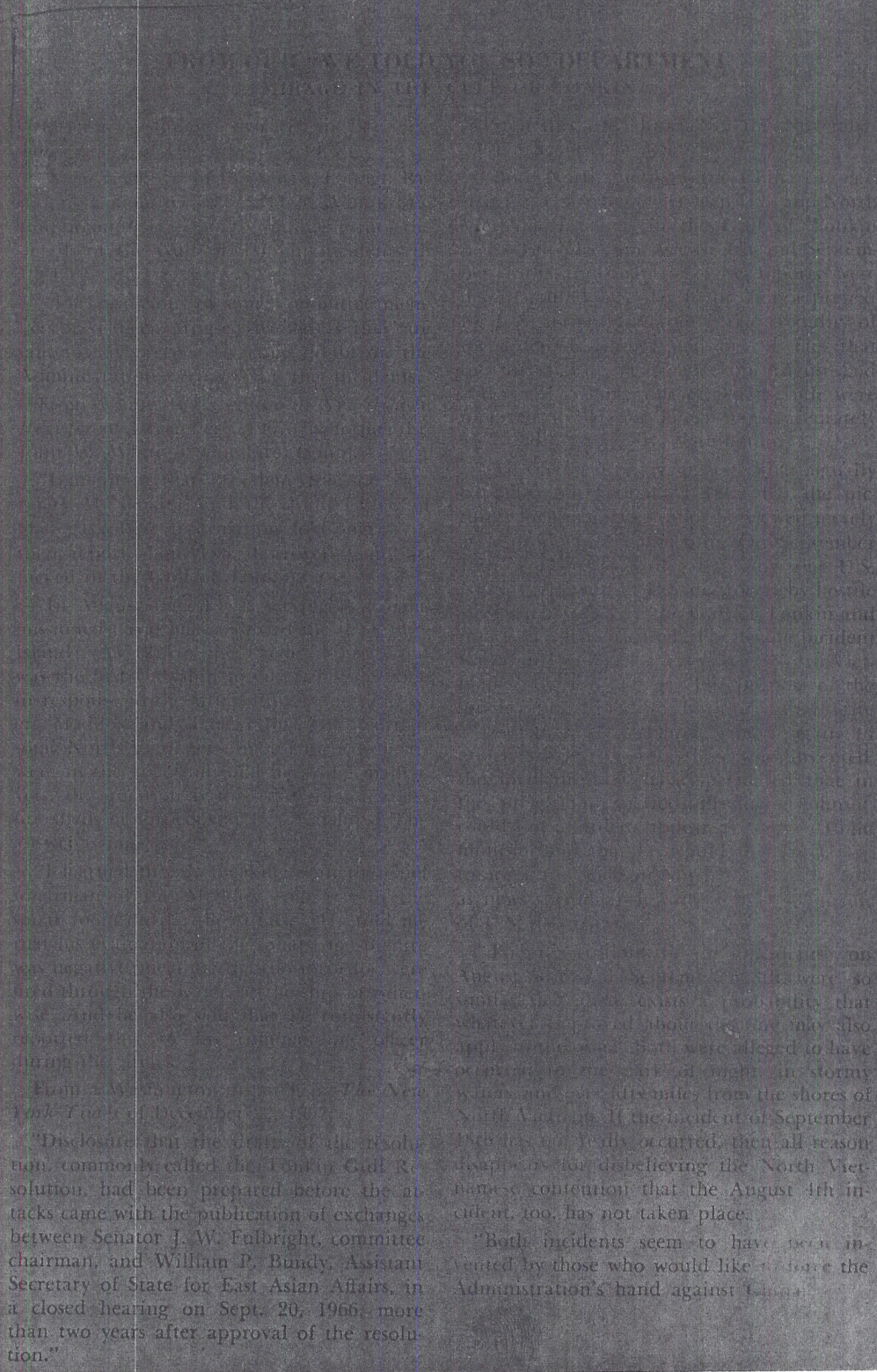
"During his recent visit to Washington, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the American commander in Saigon, reported remarkable progress. He said his forces were showing a decline in casualties, from 285,000 in 1966 to 270,000 in 1967."

## ... TURNS OUT TO BE REMARKABLE IMAGINATION

From the same dispatch:

"Government officials say privately that they now estimate enemy military and political strength in South Vietnam at 418,000 — 48,000 more than the figure of less than 350,000 reported in 1966."

"The report also shows the enemy strength in North Vietnam, which was 1,000,000 last year, has increased to 1,200,000. The number of North Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam is reported to be 150,000."



From a Washington dispatch in *The New York Times* of October 1967:

"Disclosure that the terms of the resolution, commonly called the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, had been prepared before the attacks came with the publication of exchanges between Senator J. W. Fulbright, committee chairman, and William P. Bundy, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, in a closed hearing on Sept. 20, 1966, more than two years after approval of the resolution."

... on August 4th, 1964, the attack was so small that it exists a possibility that... were alleged to have occurred... in stormy weather... 150 miles from the shores of North Vietnam. If the incident of September 1964 has not really occurred, then all reason disappears for disbelieving the North Vietnamese contention that the August 4th incident, too, has not taken place.

"Both incidents seem to have been invented by those who would like to place the Administration's hand against..."