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# New U.S. Denial on GIs in Laos

Associated Press

Key Biscayne, Fla.

The White House said yesterday there are no United States military intelligence activities under way in Laos that "relate in any way whatsoever" to current South Vietnamese operations there.

When asked at a news briefing about reports from Saigon that some Americans might have been involved on the ground in Laos, presidential press secretary Ron Ziegler said that there has been no change in U.S. policy and that no U.S. ground combat forces or advisers are involved in the incursion into Laos by South Vietnamese troops and American airmen.

"That is our policy and it will be followed," Ziegler declared, adding that there is no idea of moving "through little loopholes in that policy."

## INTELLIGENCE

Ziegler said he was not going to discuss intelligence operations or say whether they were even occurring in the Indochina war area.

"They do not relate in any way whatsoever to the operation going on in southern Laos," Ziegler said.

Ziegler criticized those who might suggest that "the American government is stating one policy and proceeding with another." He said the Administration has stated its policy clearly "and the record of this Administration on doing what we say we are going to do is on the record books."

"We have absolutely no motivation to deceive the American people on policy," he added.

## LAIRD

Two other top Administration officials reiterated the same policy.

Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, in Phoenix, Ariz., denied a report that an American GI in a South Viet-

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namese uniform had been killed in Laos.

"We have made no attempt to hide the identity of any Americans operating here," he said. "There have been Americans killed in Laos but not as ground troops."

While discussing the Laotian operations, Ziegler said the efforts of the South Vietnamese there "pose absolutely no threat to Communist China and we see no reason for them to interpret it as

such." He added that the United States is working to continue to improve relations with the Red Chinese.

President Nixon, meanwhile, spent the first day of his long weekend holiday working on the final draft of his "State of the World" message which will go to Congress Feb. 25.

He conferred with Secretary of State William P. Rogers, national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger and other aides in his office overlooking Biscayne Bay.