

## PIPELINE AN OLD ONE, PENTAGON CONCEDES

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WASHINGTON, March 3— Defense Department officials conceded today that a three-foot length of gasoline pipeline, displayed to reporters last week by Lieut. Gen. John W. Vogt as having been cut from the Ho Chi Minh Trail complex during the current incursion into Laos had in fact been obtained earlier.

General Vogt, who is director of the joint staff of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not say that the pipeline sample had been obtained during the United States-supporters incursion by South Vietnamese into Laos, starting Feb. 8. However, this was the impression left with reporters at a Pentagon briefing attended by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird.

General Vogt said that the three-foot sample was part of a longer length torn out of an

enemy supply pipeline and that this was a "major achievement, which will cause substantial inconvenience to the enemy."

Jerry W. Friedheim, Pentagon spokesman, refused today to state when and where the sample displayed by General Vogt had been obtained. Later, however, other officials said that it had been brought back in a previous operation by South Vietnamese clandestine ground forces.