

## Gen. Westmoreland

# '68 Plan to Invade N. Viet

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Gen. William Westmoreland and his command staff in Saigon drew up plans in 1968 for an invasion of North Vietnam by sea and air, Westmoreland's personal spokesman said today.

Maj. Gen. Winant Sidle said the invasion plans were presented to President Johnson as perhaps "the only way to win the war."

Sidle said Westmoreland, then U.S. commander in Vietnam and now Army chief

of staff, was well aware Johnson might rule out the invasion plan on the basis of other than military considerations. These included the political climate at home and international repercussions.

"The word we got (after the massive Communist Tet assault on South Vietnam's cities in February, 1968) was that the administration was going to reconsider its strategy in Vietnam," Sidle said.

"This (the invasion plan) was the recommendation if

the administration was going to step up the war. But as you know, Johnson decided to do just the opposite."

On March 31, Johnson announced a halt in the bombing of North Vietnam and then said he would not seek re-election.

Sidle made his comments in reply to reporters' questions about an article in a magazine, Foreign Policy, by John Henry II of Harvard University.

The article said that West-

moreland believed the United States would need 206,000 more troops in Vietnam in addition to the nearly 550,000 then there. The additional troops would have been necessary for the invasion as well as other measures Westmoreland was considering.

Sidle said Westmoreland did not make a flat request of 206,000 troops. Sidle related, "He said, 'If you (President Johnson) want to do this and this and this, it will take 206,000 more men.'"