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**Joint Chiefs Head
Sparks Confusion
Over Vietnam Role**

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WASHINGTON, April 7—The Defense Department and its military chief, Gen. George S. Brown, first seemed to reopen and then to foreclose today the possibility that the United States might reintroduce military forces into South Vietnam.

General Brown, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was quoted by a news agency as having told reporters in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he is making a brief goodwill visit, that he believed that American intervention in Vietnam was being discussed in Washington.

The report provoked some high-level interest at the Pentagon, particularly since the White House has repeatedly said President Ford has no plans to send American forces back.

Joseph Laitin, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, reached General Brown by telephone in Jakarta. Through a spokesman, Mr. Laitin reported that General Brown had "said the use of force is one United States option" but that the general also pointed out that "the law prohibits it."

Transcript Produced

When reporters said that this summation did not answer directly whether a military option was being considered, Mr. Laitin's office produced a transcript of the General's discussion with reporters, as furnished by the United States Information Agency.

The transcript showed that General Brown was asked, "What are the possibilities of direct American interference in the Vietnam situation in the matter of funding troops?" But Pentagon officials suspected that "funding" was a garble and that "sending" was the word actually used. At least in the answer, General Brown replied:

"Well, that is obviously one option, and I couldn't even guess what the possibilities are. I am sure it is under active discussion. But as you know, there are a great number of people in the United States who would not favor that."

At the end of his answer, General Brown observed:

"Oh yes, the Ambassador reminds me, we have a law in our country which prohibits the use of military force anywhere in the world without Congressional approval and specifically against the initiation of military action in Vietnam or Cambodia."