

U.S. Policy 'Probably a Mistake'

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Kissinger Sees Errors of Vietnam

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said the United States "probably made a mistake" in the 1960s "to turn Vietnam into a test case for our policy" rather than for South Vietnam's policy, and sending in U.S. troops is "the worst way" to deal with such problems.

These were the strongest criticisms Kissinger has made publicly of U.S. policy in Vietnam since he came to the White House in 1969. They match portions of criticisms levied by opponents of U.S. policy in the Vietnam war.

Kissinger's comments were made in a segment of a tele-

vision "interview that was taped Saturday and is being broadcast this morning on the "Today" show (NBC, WRC). (3 MAY

He said, in part, "We probably made a mistake in Vietnam to turn Vietnam into a test case for our policy and not for the Vietnamese policy back in 1962 and 1963 when we first got ourselves involved there."

Asked if he meant the United States should have realized in Vietnam "that the trend was towards communism . . . and we will stay out," Kissinger replied: "No, but we perhaps might have perceived it more in

Vietnamese terms rather than as the outward thrust of a global conspiracy . . ."

Kissinger, responding to questions about future U.S. policy, said:

" . . . If there is a decision to resist internal subversion, I would think that the introduction of American military forces is the worst way of dealing with it because that introduces a foreign element. If we want to be helpful, we would be much better off strengthening the government's ability to resist and giving it assistance rather than introducing American military forces"