

# Envoy Advised Congress Snub

## Washington

U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam, Graham A. Martin, advised the State Department last month to deny Congress an "honest and detailed" answer to inquiries about American policy in Indochina, according to a confidential cable made public yesterday.

In releasing the March 21 cable on the floor of the Senate, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) described it as an "outrage" to every member of Congress.

Kennedy also accused Martin of "unwarranted interference" in the work of General Accounting Office investigators looking into foreign aid expenditures in South Vietnam on behalf of Congress.

The release of the Martin cable came in the midst of a growing controversy between the State Department and Congress over the extent and purpose of continued American aid in Indochina.

On March 13, Kennedy asked Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for "comprehensive comment" on nine questions relating to

U.S. objectives and spending programs in southeast Asia.

On March 25, Kissinger responded. His letter to Kennedy asserted that Ambassador Martin believes that the U.S. government "must continue to provide the best answers to the concerned questions many Americans have about our Indochina policy."

The Kissinger response was at odds with Martin's March 21 cable, which declared:

"I think it would be the height of folly to permit Kennedy, whose staff will spearhead the effort (to reduce economic and military aid), the tactical advantage of an honest and detailed answer to the questions of substance raised in his letter."

He added that the questions were "cleverly drawn to thoroughly mix up apples and oranges. Any substantive answer would permit another calculated campaign of distortion . . ."

He urged that the Kennedy requests be brushed aside with a "short, routine reply from the assistant secretary of state for congressional affairs."

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