

EX-ENVOY REPORTS ON LOSSES IN LAOS

Godley Doubts Americans
Profited From Surplus

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (AP) —A former United States Ambassador to Laos today blamed a "lack of accountability" for the disappearance of millions of dollars worth of surplus military equipment his embassy requisitioned from bases in Southeast Asia.

He said he did not think any Americans profited from the missing equipment, however.

The former envoy, G. McMurtre Godley, also denied that he had ordered his swimming pool — built without required State Department authorization — to be referred to as a "water storage tank."

Mr. Godley appeared before a House of Representatives subcommittee as government operations.

The subcommittee displayed a May, 1972, memo to a United States plumbing shop in Vientiane, Laos, which said: "Anything referring to the Ambas-

sador's pool is to be referred to as a water storage tank and not as a swimming pool."

Mr. Godley said he had had no such policy of subterfuge. The aide whose name appeared on the memo also denied having written it.

Complaint Acknowledged

Mr. Godley acknowledged under questioning that his former security chief in Vientiane, Howard F. Mushett, had complained to him a year ago of alleged bartering, theft and deterioration by exposure to weather of nearly \$2-million of military property requisitioned from bases in Thailand.

The former Ambassador said that he had orally asked his administrative counselor to look into the charges. He said he did not recall the response, which he said had also been oral rather than in writing, but said he recalled that his aide had reported most of the charges were not true.

Mr. Mushett said that a total of nearly \$8-million in requisitioned material had been stolen or bartered off.

Records have been found so far for only the \$2-million in requisitioned material from Thailand. The Government Accounting Office said it had been able to track down only about 22 per cent of the requisitioned material.