

From editorial:

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Were the allegedly unauthorized strikes actually carried out at the suggestion of the top military command, in disregard of national policy?

Or were the strikes, in fact, authorized by the same civilian authority that maintained a public posture of prohibiting such action as part of its effort to lend credibility to its peace negotiations in Paris?

If the Joint Chiefs of Staff should be found to have encouraged General Lavelle to ignore White House policy, with the obvious risk of torpedoing the Paris talks, this would be tantamount to a military takeover of the American Government's peacemaking powers.

If the Joint Chiefs, on the other hand, acted in concert with civilian authority to pursue one military policy while publicly proclaiming another, then the American Government would stand exposed of an attempt to deceive its own people rather than the opponent at the conference table who, after all, knew what was happening in his own country.

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