

POWS

# State Department Affirms Confidence In Envoy to Saigon

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 (AP)

— The State Department reaffirming its confidence today in the reporting of Ambassador Graham A. Martin and his embassy in South Vietnam to Washington.

In the wake of a staff report issued yesterday by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the embassy was distorting its dispatches in favor of the Saigon Government, Robert Anderson, the State Department spokesman, said in a statement, "We reaffirm the department's confidence in the integrity of the reporting from Saigon."

#### Duplication Cited

Mr. Anderson said that some of the reporting from consuls in South Vietnam to Saigon was not included in information that the embassy sent on to Washington. "If significant reports are left out," he said, "it is because of an effort to avoid duplicating information."

The spokesman said that the "totality of the reporting" from Saigon has shown no significant omissions. This would include Defense Department and Central Intelligence Agency reports as well as those of the State Department.

The Foreign Relations Committee report, said that over the years the United States Embassy in Saigon had acquired a reputation "for close identification with the policies of the South Vietnamese Government and for selective reporting."

"These same tendencies are apparent today," it said.

POW COUNTRY CAMP KIDS