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By MIKE GOODMAN

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - The Nixon Administration is hiding its true Vietnam policy as did the Johnson and Kennedy administrations, an author of the Pentagon papers said Saturday.

The same purposeful hiding of what we are doing in Vietnam persists in the Nixon Administration," said Melvin Gurtov, 29, one of more than 30 authors of the top secret documents leaked to the news media.

Gurtov, who left the Rand Corp. June 30 after five years as a research specialist on China and Southeast Asia, worked on one section of the Defense Department-commissioned report for three months in 1967.

He said-contrary to some government explanations-the present Administration's Vietnamization policy "does not mean a change in our objectives in Indochina, only a change in the way we are going to pursue them.

The U. S. continues to have as its primary objective a military victory," said Gurtov, who will be an associate professor of political science this fall at the University of California, Riverside, about 60 miles east of here.

He said in an interview that the Nixon Administration would like the American public to believe the war is winding down, but in reality, while the U. S. ground role is declining, air power and logistic support have increased and probably will continue to do so.

What we'll see by 1972 is some kind of residual American ground force, but the maintenance of a major tactical and strategic air role as well as important American responsibilities for the logistical support of ARVN (South Vietnamese forces).

Gurtov said the Nixon Administration tried to suppress the Pentagon Papers partly because it didn't want to give the public American people an opportunity for the public to think what the documents in terms of present policy."

Gurtov called the study tracing America's involvement in Vietnam from the early 1960s to 1968, "a skillful and honest appraisal by a group of competent scholars."

But he said "as with any report on decision making, by definition it can never be a complete one," adding that the authors did not have access to State Department and White House documents.

He said he could not disclose his part in the study nor who the other authors were who picked them or how they were selected.

When asked about his war sentiments when working on the study, Gurtov said he was strongly antiwar but the authors on the whole represented a well mixed batch of viewpoints."

"I was strongly antiwar," he said, "but I would like to think that my contribution was an honest, objective appraisal that was well documented."

Gurtov said he agreed the government does have a right and necessity to distort intentions at certain times, "but where there is a consistent pattern of deception in order to pursue a policy that a small band of men believe is in the national interests and which consistently fails, then these officials must be called to account."

He said other authors of the papers, probably been afraid to talk because their careers and personal lives could be damaged.

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