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Thompson Mission To Asia Confirmed By the White House

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—The White House confirmed today that Sir Robert Thompson, the British expert on guerrilla warfare, had made a recent trip to South Vietnam for President Nixon and had submitted his findings to him in a secret report.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said, however, that he could not discuss the contents of the Thompson report because it was secret.

Referring to a dispatch from Washington published in The New York Times today and disclosing the Thompson mission, Mr. Ziegler said that "the over-all thrust of the story which leads to the impression that the pacification and Vietnamization programs are not doing well is an incorrect impression."

The Times dispatch said that the Thompson report described as ineffective the allied efforts to destroy the Vietcong political apparatus in South Vietnam. The article said that this conclusion seemed to "question the validity" of the two programs so long as the Vietcong apparatus remained virtually intact.

* A Correction

Because of an editing error, an article in early editions of The New York Times yesterday erroneously described Operation Phoenix on South Vietnam as "a code name for a secret Central Intelligence Agency operation that led to the alleged massacre at Mylai, March 16, 1968." The dispatch dealt with criticism of Operation Phoenix's effectiveness reportedly made by Sir Robert Thompson. The erroneous description did not appear in late editions.

Operation Phoenix is a combined United States and South Vietnamese program to find and imprison or execute Vietcong political officials. The

C.I.A. participates in the operation, but there has been no report of a connection between this program and the Mylai incident.