

Questions on U.S. Indochina Policy

Washington

Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) has asked Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to describe current American policy and objectives in Indochina, a letter released yesterday disclosed.

The letter also expressed "dismay" over a cable from Graham Martin, the U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, which a Kennedy aide said "talked about decisions in Hanoi and linked that with the views of members of Congress and their staffs."

Speaking of Martin's March 6 cable, Kennedy said:

"For him to suggest a tie between alleged decisions in Hanoi and the views of members of Congress and their staffs about the course of American policy in South Vietnam and Indochina is the worst kind of innuendo and regrettably ignores the many legitimate questions and concerns of the Congress and the American people over our commitments to the governments of Indochina and over the continuing level of our involvement in the political and military confrontations of the area."

Kennedy, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees, said, "in light of persisting hopes among all our citizens for peace in Indochina and to clarify our country's commitments and continuing involvement in the area, I feel it would be extremely helpful if definitive information on our government's policy, involvement and future planning could be made available to the subcommittee."

Kennedy asked for "com-

prehensive comment and review" on:

- The "general character and objectives" of U.S. policy toward Indochina and toward each government, including any existing commitments.

- The kinds and amount of support given to Indochinese governments, including a breakdown of U.S. personnel and a breakdown of assistance payments.

- The status of reconstruction and humanitarian assistance, including negotiations with Hanoi.

- The State Department's assessment of cease-fire agreements in Vietnam and Laos and the chances for a cease-fire in Cambodia.

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