

WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

22 JUN 1971

Johnson prepared Vietnamization

Globe runs end of Viet study

BOSTON (UPI) — The Boston Globe today published the concluding part of the secret Pentagon study. The segment says President Johnson decided to support South Vietnam but reduce American troops, a policy President Nixon would name Vietnamization.

President Johnson made the decision just before he announced March 31, 1968, that he would not seek another term, The Globe said.

Globe officials said sections of the study, which The New York Times and The Washington Post have been restrained from publishing, came to them yesterday. They did not mention the source or whether they had further documents.

The sections include, besides the Johnson documents:

- A recommendation to President Kennedy from Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, that 8,000 U.S. ground combat troops be sent into Vietnam in the guise of flood control units. The Globe said President Kennedy did not approve Gen. Taylor's request.

- A request to the Soviet Union in May, 1965, asking them to inform Hanoi officially that the United States would temporarily stop bombing North Vietnam as a peace feeler. The Soviets refused, The Globe said, because they felt China would charge collusion with the United States.

- A report of a June 2, 1964, meeting in Honolulu where Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara raised the possibility of using nu-

clear weapons at some point if Chinese forces entered the ground war.

According to The Globe, the January, 1968, Tet offensive shook Washington's confidence in an eventual end to the war and "altho it had been predicted, took the U.S. command and the public by surprise and its strength, length and intensity prolonged this shock."

At this point, the study said, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended refusing requests for additional combat troops because the reserves — needed in case of domestic disorders — were becoming too thin.

The Globe said an analyst said in the epilogue:

"The possibility of military victory had seemingly become remote and the cost had become too high both in political and economic terms. Only then was it realized that a clear-cut military victory was probably not possible or necessary . . ."

Gen. Taylor's cable, sent in late October, 1961, recommended that the United States "initiate guerrilla action, including United States advisers if necessary," in the Sepone area of Laos, and send troops to support the government of Ngo Dinh Diem.

"My view is that we should put in a task force consisting largely of logistical troops for the purpose of participating in flood relief and at the same time of providing a United States military presence," the study said Gen. Taylor wrote.