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Colby in Time discredits Viet guerrilla victory

New York (Reuter)—The Communist victory in Vietnam was no more a result of guerrilla war than was the Nazi victory in France and Norway, the outgoing director of the Central Intelligence Agency, William E. Colby, says in *Time* magazine.

According to the current issue of *Time* released for publication yesterday, Mr. Colby said in an interview that the CIA won "the people's war" in South Vietnam.

At critical times in the war, *Time* quotes the veteran intelligence agent as saying, "there weren't any true guerrillas in Vietnam. The people were all on the government's side."

According to the *Time* report, Mr. Colby added:

"The Communist victory in Vietnam was no more a result of guerrilla war than was the Nazi victory in France and Norway."

Mr. Colby served with the American Office of Strategic Services, the precursor of the CIA, in both European countries during World War II. Mr. Colby also defended his agency's role in covert operations, *Time* says. "I believe the U.S. government needs an ability to conduct large unattributed, unadmitted operations," he is

quoted as saying.

"Otherwise we're in a position of either having to complain with a diplomatic protest and be ignored, or having to threaten to use military force, which nobody wants to do."

Time says it asked Mr. Colby about the Bay of Pigs operation against Cuba. He responded that if it had succeeded, "it would have avoided the Cuban missile crisis, which is the nearest the world has ever got to Armageddon."

Mr. Colby said, according to *Time*, that it was "maddening and frustrating that so many people associate the CIA with dart guns and toxin and assassinations."

He acknowledged, regarding the agency's Phoenix counterterrorist operation in Vietnam, that "the figure of 20,000 people killed is often used. Well, that's my figure, and I'm the one who put it out. But that was part of war."