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"The thing these Congressmen want most is to get out to the field to see the front-line American troops as fast as they can," one American officer explained. "And that's what they do." The delegation of Senator EDWARD Kennedy also initiated a request to visit Australian and New Zealand troops; almost all paid at least brief courtesy calls on Vietnamese troops or commanders in Saigon or in the field.

Congressman ^{CRAIG} ~~CRAIG~~ Hosmer (R. Calif.) arrived in Vietnam at the northern city of Danang; he transferred so quickly from his aircraft to a helicopter carrying him to U.S. Marine battalions in the field that he forgot his plaid suitcase, according to reliable sources.

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second add x x x american military command x x x

The second day of their visit, began with an early WAKE walk-up and a 7 a.m. departure for the U.S. Marine enclave city of Danang, 380 miles and one hour flight from Saigon.

Eating lunch on the noisy transport plane, the delegation Hopscooted from one to had scotched through American combat troops installations AS WELL AS throughout the day, plus a stop to see American war wounded in a field hospital. Following a 7:00 breakfast with General Westmoreland, the delegation left VIETNAM THE NEXT DAY.

The other three Congressional tours followed the some basic routes of visiting the U.S. Marines in the northern provinces, the 1st Air cavalry division in the high plateau and units at Bien Hoa.

The Rivers-Hardy-Long-delegation was given the best accommodations of any group; as THEY the Congressman stayed at the residences of General Westmoreland and another general. The delegation of Senator Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.), Cong. John Tunney (D. Calif.), Joseph Tydings (D. MD. IND.) and Cong. John Culver (D. IO.) stayed at the best hotel in town, the Caravelle.

Congressman Hosmer during his seven day visit stayed and Congressman George Grider (D. Tenn.) stayed a new, comfortable but austere hotels BECAUSE OF ROOM SHORTAGES ELEWHERE. Grider of the house judiciary committee and holder of a distinguished navy record during World War II is currently in Vietnam on a 13-day stay during which time he stayed two nights in American field installations.

third add x x x american field installations x x x
~~second add x x x one year military command x x x~~

During their stay in Saigon, various Congressmen were invited by American Admirals, Generals and other officials for informal ~~for~~ sport-shirt dinners; but ^{ON} one free night, two American navy Lieutenant Commanders bought dinner for Hosmer because he had no ~~no~~ ^{no} time to buy the local currency. During afternoon trips, the delegations ate in the mess halls of generals--sometimes in a tent;--Kennedy's party insisted on eating with the troops in the messline; The Kennedy group at times ^{ate} ~~ate~~ cold box lunches (cost of one dollar plus to the individual) or a hot lunches on the aircraft (cost of \$30 to the delegation).

Hosmer's one-week visit to Vietnam was part of his three-week active service duty ^{as} ~~of~~ a U.S. Navy reserve; the other two weeks he spent on a guided missile cruiser and an aircraft carrier of the 7th Fleet elements conducting airstrikes in North Vietnam. Besides visiting U.S. troops in the field, he concentrated on activities of the Vietnamese navy and U.S. coast guard, traveling to the Southern ^{most} point in Vietnam. He visited Vietnam without pay or allowances. He also reportedly talked with Vietnamese village, district, province chiefs as well as field commanders. During his ^{CHATS} American officers and privates frequently asked him about the anti-Vietnam demonstrations in California ^{and} ~~&~~ Unistates. His reply: the demonstrations represent a very small fraction of American public opinion.

fourth add x x x american public opinion x x x

He also told American officials that he was impressed with the civic action projects of American troops. American officers were impressed when Hosmer ~~thought~~^{Sought} out and thanked the American privates who typed his itinerary; when he dismissed a military photographer assigned to cover his visit because he was unnecessary; when he told half dozen officers to go back to their work and not to worry about his briefings.

"I got the Congressmens' boots back when they returned from the field;" one American officer explained. "They were covered with ~~mud~~^{MUD}; their ~~clothes~~ fatigues and jackets were sweaty and dirty. I knew the Congressmen had been working here."
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