

## REVIEW OF REPORT PROPOSED BY U.S.

Federal Aides Say Survey Could Lead to Release of Parts of Secret Study

by David E. Rosenbaum  
Special to The New York Times

Washington, June 22 - The Government offered today to begin an interagency review of the secret Pentagon study of American involvement in Vietnam to determine how much of it could be declassified.

The offer was made by Federal lawyers in appellate courts here and in New York where the Government is contesting lower court decisions upholding the right of The Washington Post and The New York Times to continue to publish information based on the classified study.

Meanwhile, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird told reporters that he had already ordered a review of the Pentagon documents to see which of them could be publicly released.

Whitney North Seymour Jr., the United States Attorney in New York, and

the United States Attorney in New York, and Solicitor General Erwin N. Griswold, who is arguing the Government's case against The Post, said they were authorized to say that Mr. Laird, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and the Joint Chiefs of Staff had agreed to convene a "joint task force" to

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examine the documents.

Mr. Griswold and Mr. Seymour estimated that the review would take 45 days, and they said that after it was completed the Government would have no objection to the publication of information that had been declassified.

Mr. Laird said that the Pentagon review would take about 90 days.

In New York, no sign of interest in Mr. Seymour's offer was shown by lawyers for The Times or by the eight Appeals Court judges. The proposal was not discussed further in open court.

Mr. Ziegler and Mr. Laird declared that The Times and other newspapers were not in possession of the full, 47-volume study, covering the period from 1940 to 1968. Mr. Ziegler said that the newspapers had obtained only "preliminary documents" from a "partial draft."

### One Section Missing

Neither The Times nor The Post has stated explicitly what it possessed, although The Times has acknowledged that it did not have a section on secret diplomacy during the Johnson Administration.

The publication of the data drawn from the Pentagon study and the ensuing court actions continued to be a major topic of discussion on Capitol Hill.

Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said his committee had possessed parts of the study "for some time." Twice in the last 18 months Senator Fulbright, an Arkansas Democrat, has tried to get complete copies from the Administration but has been rebuffed.

Mr. Fulbright would not say what parts he had obtained or how. When he was asked why he had not turned over the classified information to the executive branch, he replied:

"We're all cleared for top secret here. We're not only cleared, we're entitled to such information."

### Post Rejects Proposal

Here, William R. Glendon, a lawyer for The Post, rejected the offer, calling it "government by handout."

"The Government can then offer to the press what serves its interests," he said.

Mr. Laird, who was interviewed during a break in hearings before a Senate appropriations subcommittee on foreign aid, said that "because certain papers have been stolen it is necessary to move as rapidly as possible" to review the security classification on the material.

At the White House, Ronald L. Ziegler, the press secretary, said that Mr. Laird was responding to a Presidential directive of Jan. 15 that instructed Government agencies to study existing classification procedures. Mr. Ziegler said that the purpose of the directive was to "enlarge the American people's right to know by making more information available, not less."

The press secretary said that publication of some of the documents about the Indochina war meant that they had been "compromised."

### Decision Due on Hearings

The Foreign Relations Committee is to decide tomorrow whether to conduct its own investigation of the United States involvement in Indochina. Senator Fulbright said he thought his committee was the proper forum for such hearings.

He said the Nixon Administration had "only itself to blame" for the furor created by the publication of the Pentagon study.

"The documents would not have created as much of a splash if the Administration had taken the proper course and turned over the documents to the committee," the Arkansas Senator declared.

Tomorrow, the information subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee is scheduled to begin a week of hearings into the Government's methods of classifying documents and releasing information.

The witnesses scheduled for the first day are Arthur J. Goldberg, the former Supreme Court Justice and United States representative at the United Nations; Prof. Joseph Bishop of the Yale University Law School, an expert in constitutional law, and Lee C. White, former chairman of the Federal Power Commission, who, as an assistant to President John F. Kennedy, helped draft an executive order outlining the procedures for classifying and declassifying material.

Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr., Republican of California, who is a member of the subcommittee, is to testify Thursday, and he has said he would make public then the parts of the Pentagon study that he has obtained.

### Ellsberg Mentioned

The subcommittee chairman, Representative William S. Moorhead, a Pennsylvania Democrat, said today that he would welcome an appearance before the panel by Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, who is rumored to have been a possible source of the materials that have been published in The New York Times. Aides to Mr. Moorhead said they had not been able to reach Dr. Ellsberg.

In St. Paul, Minn., last night, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota called for a full



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Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird discussing the declassification of the Pentagon's secret Vietnam study during break in hearing by Senate Appropriations subcommittee yesterday. At right is Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

publication of the Pentagon study. Mr. Humphrey, who was Vice President during much of the period covered by the study, acknowledged that the disclosures would not be "helpful" to his political future, but he added: "If there is fault, we're all involved. Let's admit we made a mistake and get on with the business of the future."

Senator Barry Goldwater said last night that he was "perfectly aware of what was going on in the Government debates during the [1964] election campaign" and that he did not believe President Johnson had "lied or defrauded" him.

Documents that have been published have shown that plans to bomb North Vietnam were much more advanced than Mr. Johnson publicly indicated during his Presidential campaign against Mr. Goldwater, an Arizona Republican.

Senator Goldwater said that his position as a general in the Air Force Reserve made him aware of plans that were being considered.

In Chicago, Herbert G. Klein, the White House Director of Communication said the Nixon Administration was not trying to "cover up possible mistakes for past administrations."

He said the motives of the Government in trying to prevent publication of classified information were not "less freedom of the press" or "secrecy for secrecy's sake."

Rather, he said, the Administration wanted to insure that the law was applied "equally to great newspapers and individuals."

In a column in The New York Post today, William F. Buckley Jr. wrote that he reserved judgment on whether newspapers should have published ar-

ticles based on the Pentagon study.

An editorial in The National Review, of which Mr. Buckley is the editor, declared this week that The Times could not be faulted for publishing its material.

Among the other Senators to comment on the Pentagon study and the court cases were Frank E. Moss, Democrat of Utah, and John V. Tunney, Democrat of California.

Mr. Moss declared that "the public should be permitted to know what these documents contain," and he said that the information had taken on "added sinister significance" because of the attempt to suppress it.

Mr. Tunney said that the disclosures showed that "we can never again allow war to be waged from the basement of the White House."

In London, Pierre Salinger, a former Presidential press secretary, said yesterday that Mr. Johnson "degrades the Presidency" with the allegations reported by Newsweek concerning the Pentagon study.

The Newsweek article portrayed Mr. Johnson as feeling that the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy "may well have inspired" the Vietnam report to obtain political ammunition for his intended campaign for the Democratic nomination in 1968. The article said that Mr. Johnson's views had been conveyed "by those in Austin privy to his feelings" and that he considered the Pentagon study inaccurate and distorted.

Mr. Salinger, who was press secretary to President John F. Kennedy, commented:

"This frantic new effort to rewrite history is completely consistent with the continuing effort of the former President

to shift responsibility for his actions in Vietnam to his advisers. Robert Kennedy was not responsible for Lyndon Johnson's policy in Vietnam. He opposed it vigorously."

From sources at Newsweek it was learned that the views in the magazine's June 28 issue were actually expressed by Mr. Johnson in a telephone interview. A spokesman for the magazine, asked to comment, said: "We have to stand by the story, as we have printed it; as you know, Mr. Johnson said he would not comment on The Times' publishing of the documents."

#### A.B.C. Head Sees Threat

Meanwhile, Elton H. Rule, president of the American Broadcasting Company, issued the following statement:

"Once again an alarm has sounded for the public's right to know. This time it is not television that is under attack but the print medium.

"Government attempts to suppress publication of the Vietnam papers by The New York Times and The Washington Post are further examples of the highest official pressure against the guaranties of the First Amendment.

"This is a time for every member of the journalistic fraternity, whether his tools be typewriter, microphone or television camera, to respond to the alarm quickly, firmly and effectively by insisting on the constitutional right of a free press to function, and a free public to be fully informed."

In Detroit John W. Gardner, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the Johnson Administration, said the Pentagon papers should be published even if they are embarrassing to some members of government.