

Pentagon Papers to Soviet Embassy

Nixon, 22 May 73:

"On Sunday, June 13, 1971, The New York Times published the first installment of what came to be known as "The Pentagon Papers." Not until a few hours before publication did any responsible government official know that they had been stolen. .... Therefore, during the week following\* the Pentagon Papers publication, I approved the creation of a Special Investigations Unit within the White House - which later came to be known as the 'plumbers.' .... At about the time the unit was created, Daniel Ellsberg was identified as the person who had given the Pentagon Papers to the New York Times."\*\*

8 May 73 - Seymour L. Horsh, NYTimes  
3 Jun 73 - Sanford J. Ungar, WXPost  
4 Jun 73 - SFChronicle [NYTimes]  
6 Jun 73 - SFChronicle [UPI]; WXPost (longer version of UPI story, same date)

of 13 Jun ends 19 Jun 71; the following week is 20 to 26 Jun.

\*The week following 13 Jun was 20 Jun to 26 Jun.

\*\*NYTimes 18 Jun 71, p. 15, "F.B.I. Continues Investigation of How Times Got Secret Study," filed Pentagon Papers: " .... In Boston, reporters tried to find Daniel Ellsberg ... after reports in New York and Washington that he gave the study to The Times. .... Mr. Ellsberg was named as the source of the study by Sidney Zion, a former Times reporter and editor of the defunct magazine Scanlon's Monthly, on the Larry Gray program on WHCA radio late Wednesday night [16 Jun 71]."

John Ehrlichman gives a date of 24 Jul 71 as he was questioned by Senator Lowell Weicker 27 Jul 73, afternoon session (tape Day 30, at 407):

Weicker: .... Now we have already heard from Mr. Mitchell and he testified before this committee that the first that he had heard of the White House horrors - the plumbers' operation - was on June 21, 1972. This was after he had left as Attorney General. Is Mr. Mitchell lying?

Ehrlichman: As I said in my testimony the other day, Senator, Mr. Mitchell's recollection here is evidently hazy, because the President authorized the creation of this unit on the 24th of July and asked that we meet with several members of the cabinet --

Weicker: The 24th of July, 1971?

Ehrlichman: Yes, sir. ....

"According to Nixon administration sources, the [Pentagon] Papers were delivered to the [Soviet] embassy ... on June 16, 1971, the day after U.S. District Court Judge Murray I Gurfein, in New York, issued a temporary restraining order against The New York Times. The man who delivered the documents, apparently alone at the time, included a letter, signed with an alias, stating his reasons for passing the Pentagon Papers on to the Soviet government, the sources said. He has been sought for almost two years, they added, but still has not been even tentatively identified. The alias with which he signed the letter apparently could not be traced. .... For reasons that were not immediately clear, the matter of Soviet possession of the documents was never brought to the attention of the federal courts - publicly or privately - during the civil suits against the newspapers or the criminal proceedings against Ellsberg and Russo." WXPost 3 Jun 73, Sanford J. Ungar, filed Watergate.

Hunt was hired by Colson 6 Jul 71. (Excerpts from Ehrlichman statement, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Intelligence Operations, 30 May 73 - NYT 1 Jun 73.)

(Cont'd)

Pentagon Papers to Soviet Embassy (2)

"Some of the Pentagon Papers were reportedly turned over to the Soviet Embassy by an unidentified man shortly after The New York Times began publishing the text of the documents in June, 1971. Justice Department sources have told The Washington Post that the FBI, which has been investigating the matter for two years, has found no evidence to link the copy of papers delivered to the Soviet Embassy to Ellsberg or to the newspapers that published the documents."

WXPost, 25 Jul 73, p. A12, col. 6 (Lawrence Meyer and Peter A. Jay)

Ehrlichman testimony 25 Jul 73 - Q. Isn't it a fact that the break-in [at Dr. Fielding's office] occurred more than 60 days after publication of those papers in The New York Times?  
A. Oh, I think two things have to be said here: One, the investigation [break-in?] was not to prevent the newspapers from publishing the Pentagon papers because that was, of course, an accomplished fact. The investigation here was to find out who had stolen top secret documents, and disseminated them, not only to the newspapers but, and we had at the time strong reason to believe that the documents delivered to the Soviet Embassy were not the same documents as were printed in the New York Times."

NYTimes 26 Jul 73, p. 28, col. 2