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Nixon Will Give Secret Study to Congress

REVIEW PLANNED

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Legislators Must Not Make Papers Public, President Says

Text of Ziegler's statement is
printed on Page 16.

By JOHN HERRERS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 23 — President Nixon announced today that he would make available to Congress the complete 47-volume Pentagon study of United States involvement in Vietnam.

But the President made it clear that the documents would retain their top-secret classification and that he was making them available with the understanding that Congress would not make them public pending a review of their classification by the executive branch.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird said after a meeting with Congressional leaders this afternoon that the papers would be delivered to the House and the Senate tomorrow. The Pentagon study, material from which has been published by The New York Times and other newspapers, covers the period 1940 to 1968.

Senate Secretary Designated

Senate leaders said that the papers would be directed temporarily to the Secretary of the Senate, Francis R. Valeo, for safekeeping pending a decision on how a Senate investigation of the origins of the war would be carried out.

House Speaker Carl Albert said the copy or copies given to the House would be referred to the Armed Services Committee, which is headed by Representative F. Edward Hébert, Democrat of Louisiana. Mr. Albert's decision brought an immediate protest from some members of a House Government Operations subcommittee, which earlier had sought copies of the documents.

Meanwhile, the Senate leadership moved toward creating a

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special joint panel of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees to hold public hearings on the origins of the Vietnam war. At the same time the Foreign Relations Committee decided to go ahead with plans for its own investigation of the policy decisions that underlay American involvement in Vietnam. This inquiry was expected to be behind closed doors.

President Nixon informed Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Senate Majority Leader, of his decision to make the documents available during a White House breakfast meeting this morning.

Ziegler Makes Statement

Two hours later, as reports of the move began to spread, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House Press Secretary, appeared for the regular morning briefing for reporters and read a statement.

In the meeting with Senator Mansfield, the statement said, "the President volunteered to make available to the House and Senate the 47 volumes of the Kennedy-Johnson Administration report on Vietnam as well as copies of the 1965 study of the Tonkin incident."

"President Nixon told Senator Mansfield," Mr. Ziegler said, "that the unauthorized publication of portions of the documents created a situation in which Congress would necessarily be making judgments in the meantime on the basis of incomplete data, which could give a distorted impression of the report's contents.

"For that reason the President feels it is only fair to Congress and to persons mentioned in the documents that the full report be made available."

No White House Evaluation

Mr. Ziegler emphasized, in the statement and later in response to questions, that the documents were the work of previous Administrations and thus were going to Congress without evaluation by the White House.

"Since the documents relate primarily to the Johnson and Kennedy periods," Mr. Ziegler said, "President Nixon pointed out that he is not in a position to vouch for their accuracy or completeness."

Mr. Ziegler later was asked why he said the study dealt primarily with the "Kennedy-Johnson Administrations" when in fact it stretched back also into the earlier Administrations. Mr. Ziegler replied:

"The reference contained in my remarks pertains to the fact that the substantial number of papers contained in these volumes relate to the Kennedy-Johnson era."

Twice in the last 18 months

before publication of some of the documents in The Times, Secretary Laird had declined a request by J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to make the documents available for Congressional scrutiny.

Mr. Ziegler was asked if the President's decision had any connection with yesterday's 57-to-42 Senate vote on an amendment to the Selective Service bill calling for withdrawal of all American forces from Indochina within nine months if American prisoners of war are released.

He said there was no connection because President Nixon had decided over the weekend in Key Biscayne, Fla., to give the papers to Congress. The President, he said, made the decision after "talking to a number of people down there, both by telephone and with those who were present, members of his staff and others."

Mr. Ziegler was also asked why, if the President wanted Congress not to make judgments based on incomplete or distorted information, he did not send Congress additional documents that would make its studies more complete and balanced. The authors of the Pentagon study have pointed out that it is not a complete record. Mr. Ziegler responded:

Document 'Mishandled'

"There is a 47-volume document that has been mishandled, and thereby portions of it are appearing in the public presses. This 47-volume document relates to activities of past Administrations. As we have said before, it is not our intent or purpose to justify or address the development of policy or policy decisions made in the past."

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