

# Revelation of Key 1964 Lodge Memo on the War

## Los Angeles

United States Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge warned against "annihilation" of North Vietnam in 1964, on grounds there would "be nobody left in North Vietnam on whom to put pressure," heretofore secret volumes of the Pentagon Papers revealed yesterday.

The volumes have been introduced as evidence by the government at the trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo, charged with espionage, conspiracy and theft in connection with the release of the Pentagon Papers.

The papers showed that Lodge sent a message to the Secretary of State Dean Rusk on May 15, 1964, discussing tactics to be used by

the U.S. while the Canadian government was acting as a third party in negotiations with Hanoi.

From Saigon, Lodge, then ambassador to South Vietnam, advised that before a Canadian envoy next visited North Vietnam, the South Vietnamese air force should hit a "specific target in North Vietnam," assuming there had been a "terroristic act of proper magnitude beforehand by the North Vietnamese."

"I much prefer a selective use of Vietnamese air power to an overt U.S. effort perhaps involving the total annihilation of all that has been built in North Vietnam since 1954 because this would surely bring in the Chinese Communists and might well bring in the Rus-

sians," Lodge's memo read.

"Moreover, if you lay the country to waste, it is quite likely that you will induce a mood of fatalism in the Viet Cong. Also, there will be nobody left in North Vietnam on whom to put pressure."

Lodge's cable, marked top secret, is among numerous communiques in the four volumes recording the secret diplomacy of the Johnson administration.

Ellsberg and Russo are not charged with releasing these four volumes to the press, only with copying them. The volumes were entered into evidence by the government at the trial last Friday and segments were shown to jurors on photo-slides.

*Associated Press*