

1945 PLEAS BY HO REVEALED BY U.S.

Censored Pentagon Papers
to Be Published Monday
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By NEIL SHEEHAN
NY TIMES The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21—The Nixon Administration released to Congress today a censored 7,800-page version of the Pentagon papers. The text will be available to the public next week.

The decision to release the papers for publication by the Government Printing Office removed much of the remaining veil of secrecy that the Administration fought so hard to preserve through the courts after The New York Times and other newspapers began last June to publish articles and documents from the top-secret study of the Vietnam war.

The censored version contains new and previously unpublished material, such as eight unanswered letters and telegrams from Ho Chi Minh appealing for help for his followers in 1945-46. The Government censors deleted some ma-

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terial already published by The New York Times and other newspapers.

Among these deletions are five messages between Washington and the United States Embassy in Saigon in the fall of 1963, when the Kennedy Administration was encouraging a coup d'état against the Government of Ngo Dinh Diem.

Other deletions included several pages in the section on the Johnson Administration's covert military operations against North Vietnam and a number of key policy memorandums.

The four volumes on the secret diplomatic negotiations of the Johnson years, which none of the newspapers obtained, were withheld entirely. Rudy A.

Johnson, a Pentagon legislative aide, said in a letter to Congress that those volumes "deal exclusively with sensitive negotiations seeking peace and the release of prisoners" and "their disclosure would adversely affect continuing efforts to achieve those objectives."

A Pentagon spokesman contended that 95 per cent of the material in the other 43 volumes had been released.

Jerry M. Friedheim, the Pentagon spokesman, said the decision to release the expurgated version had nothing to do with the forthcoming publication by The Beacon Press of Boston of a version of the papers obtained through Senator Mike Gravel, Democrat of Alaska. Beacon is to issue a 2,952-page, four-volume edition in mid-October.

Mr. Friedheim said the release was "solely in response" to an order last June from President Nixon to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird that as much as possible be published as soon as possible. On June 22, he noted, Mr. Laird set up a group to declassify the study within 90 days.

The work of declassification, Mr. Friedheim added, was accomplished by about 100 State and Defense Department officials as well as by personnel from other agencies, apparently including the Central Intelligence Agency.

Some Congressional sources noted that the decision to publish the censored version came with unannounced suddenness.

Uniformed military personnel wheeled four sets, each of which fills two foot-square boxes, into the offices of the House and Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees this morning. The committees were told only this morning that the papers were arriving.

\$60 a Set to the Public

Representative F. Edward Hébert, Democrat of Louisiana and chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, quickly sent a set to the Government Printing Office for publication.

A. N. Spence, the Public Printer, said that the unclassified version, in 12-volume cloth-bound sets printed by photo offset, would be published Monday. The price to the public will be \$60, he added.

Mr. Spence said that he had thought at first of printing about 5,000 sets but had decided to print 2,500 to 2,700 because "we just found out that our competitor in Boston is coming out with them for \$20."

Beacon will sell its set for \$45 in cloth and \$20 paper-bound, according to Gobin Stair, its director.

Mr. Spence said he had already received telephoned inquiries from several commercial bookstores, but he was quoted as expressing doubt that a large

number of sets would sell because of the size and price.

"My aim is not to cut into the commercial market but just to make the documents available," he explained.