

Excerpt from story on publication by NYTimes of secret Pentagon study of the Vietnam war: *

[Maxwell Taylor, who was the United States ambassador to South Vietnam in 1964 and 1965] was interviewed by Walter Cronkite on the CBS Evening News on Wednesday [16 Jun]. He said that the disclosure of the secret documents was "laying a foundation for bad history." Mr. Taylor was asked about "the people's right to know."

He replied, "I don't believe in that as a general principle. You have to talk about cases. What is a citizen going to do after reading these documents that he wouldn't have done otherwise? A citizen should know those things he needs to know to be a good citizen and discharge his functions, but not to get into secrets which simply damage his government and indirectly damage the citizen himself."

*Series starting 13 Jun 71.

See also article by Maxwell Taylor, NYTimes 10 Mar 71, this file (Indochina/Comment).

Column by Nicholas Von Hoffman on Pentagon study, SFChronicle 19 Jun 71, filed Press.