

See also KPFA News, 26 May 70, this file

DEC 16 1970

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON

**Laird Dedicates Room
For Prayer in Pentagon**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (AP) — Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird formally dedicated a small room in the Pentagon today as a quiet place for meditation and prayer.

"In a sense, this ceremony marks the completion of the Pentagon, for until now this building lacked a place where man's inner spirit could find quiet expression," Mr. Laird said.

The meditation room, he said, "is an affirmation that, though we cling to the principle that church and state should be separate, we do not propose to separate man from God."

It was under Mr. Laird's direction that the small room on the Pentagon's A-Ring was furnished as a place for meditation.

Prayer in the Pentagon

To the Editor:

Are American citizens supposed to be reassured by the Dec. 16 news story to the effect that a special room has now been dedicated by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird "for meditation and prayer"? Some of us had assumed that every room in the Pentagon is used for meditation and possibly for prayer as well, considering the decisions that have been made there.

LETTIE GAY CARSON
Millerton, N. Y., Dec. 17, 1970

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