

'Classified' Memos On Vietnam Appear In National Review

NYTimes JUL 21 1971

National Review, the conservative weekly magazine, published yesterday a selection of what it described as "highly classified documents" dealing with United States involvement in Vietnam, which it said had been leaked to the magazine.

The magazine's July 27 issue, which appeared yesterday, refers to the documents as "The Secret Papers They Didn't Publish" and as "Top Secret Memoranda 1962-1965." Their authenticity could not be determined independently yesterday.

National Review identified the material it published as "not published" by either The New York Times or The Washington Post in their series in June and July based on a Pentagon study of United States involvement in Indochina.

The documents that were published in National Review, according to a note in the magazine, were "those that seemed most pointed" and "extraordinarily revealing." The overall impression given by the material is one of the United States Government seeking to avoid a long-term involvement in Southeast Asia.

William F. Buckley Jr., editor of National Review, could not be reached for comment. Through a spokesman, however, Mr. Buckley relayed a message that he was "hiding out where Daniel Ellsberg is."

Most of the officials and Asia scholars cited as authors of the material could not be reached for comment. One who could, Dean Rusk, former Secretary of State, was asked about what was described as a handwritten memorandum recommending that there be no declaration of war against North Vietnam. Mr. Rusk said: "I can't verify that I wrote any such memorandum. It's entirely possible that I did."

Another was Frank Trager, a scholar credited by the magazine as having been a co-author with Douglas Pike of a 1964 confidential memorandum dealing with the National Liberation Front. After the article was read to him, Mr. Trager said that nothing in it was classified information and that it had all been said or written publicly.