

Memo from  
McCloskey to  
A.A. June 1971

617/492-1120 home  
617/501-6900 ext 3122 office

Leonard Boudin  
Howard L. B.  
Cambridge, Mass.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robin Schmidt  
FROM: Pete McCloskey

1. Jan - June 1964
2. July - Oct 1964
3. Nov - Dec 1964
4. Rolling Thunder
5. The Marines Go To Danang
6. Phase I of U.S. Build-up

With respect to your inquiry about Dan Ellsberg, I first heard his name when reading an old New York Review article entitled, "Laos: What Nixon Is Up To". The quote that struck me from that article was attributed to Henry Kissinger in 1968, "The appropriate goal of U. S. policy was a 'decent interval' -- two to three years -- between the withdrawal of U. S. troops and a Communist takeover in Vietnam." I have used that quote in several speeches subsequently.

I believe that I met Ellsberg for the first time at a speech with Senator Hartke at Princeton University on April 19. Either at that time or subsequently, Ellsberg suggested that he met <sup>me</sup> with me to apprise me of information relative to Viet Nam, in particular, my concern over deception of Congress by the Executive Branch with respect to Viet Nam.

We had subsequent conversations on this subject and he placed in my hands for study a number of xeroxed sheets which bore no classification markings nor subject headings or titles as I recall. It was agreed after I reviewed these documents that we would discuss them further and on a visit to California on May 13, he rode with me from Washington to San Francisco and I believe returned with me on May 15 from Los Angeles to Washington, at which time we discussed his feelings



and conclusions about what the documents purported to show. I made a number of notes on his comments and checked the specific identifying language with him before presenting my testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 27, 1971, in which I identified the <sup>original</sup> ~~assess-~~ <sup>ance</sup> of the Viet Nam Task Force Study and <sup>asked</sup> requested that Senator Fulbright request such study from the Defense Department.

I have retained the documents given to me by Mr. Ellsberg in our Congressional office safe. <sup>Staff assistants</sup> ~~Staff assistants~~ Anna Canby, Connie Bethray and David Brown had the combination to the safe, <sup>with</sup> and to my knowledge no member of my staff <sup>has</sup> have ever seen the documents which have been kept in a black carrying case.