27 December 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. FRED BUZHARDT,
GENERAL COUNSEL, OSD

SUBJECT: Request from Senator Fulbright

The letter of 8 December 1971 from Senator Fulbright refers to the possibility of a mix-up in the dates of intercept of North Vietnamese messages bearing on events in the Gulf of Tonkin. Mr. Fulbright asks that members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff be allowed to examine the originals of the intercepts involved.

I have no objection to allowing a staff member to see NSA record copies of the "originals" of pertinent traffic here in secure spaces at NSA. I propose not to show him any evaluative or supplementary materials, as that is beyond the scope of Senator Fulbright's request.

My own estimate is that a perusal of "original" intercepts will not resolve the specific issue to which Senator Fulbright refers. I am not privy to how the Secretary of Defense at that time may have interpreted them.

NOEL GAYLER
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Director

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 11-09-2005 pursuant to E.O. 12958, as amended

~~HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS~~

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