13 August 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Church Committee Interest in Gulf of Tonkin Incident

1. In a telephone conversation with Mr. Frank Foster on 13 August, a member of the Church Committee, Mr. Betts, said he had heard that a Mr. Gerhard or Dr. Howe of NSA had put together a number of cryptologic studies in which the staff might be interested. Mr. Foster and Mr. Lowman subsequently arranged a Gerhard - Betts phone conversation.

2. During this latter conversation, Betts began by asking about our studies generally. I tried to interest him in our most innocuous and non-CW work, Deadly Transmissions, but was unable to arouse much interest in COMSEC. He soon began to ask a number of pointed questions about draft materials he thought I had concerning the Gulf of Tonkin incidents of 1964. I acknowledged I had some materials. I said I had not examined them in over 4 years and would have to review them before saying anything definite, particularly about draft materials. I told him flatly 4 or 5 times that I did not have any finished or published work on this subject.

3. The above exchange and the Newsweek item attached suggest that we may be asked to provide Gulf of Tonkin - related materials to the committee.

Bill G.

William D. Gerhard
D4, Staff Research Element

Incl:
a/s

cc: ESS, Mr. [redacted] less incl)
ESS, Mr. " ")
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D4, Mr. " ")

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