



June 24, 2011

Steven Aftergood
Federation of American Scientists
1725 DeSales Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request NGC11-181

Dear Mr. Aftergood:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of June 8, 2011, for records that document the decision to declassify the last eleven classified words in the Pentagon Papers. Your request was received in this office electronically on June 8, 2011, and assigned tracking number NGC11-181.

We located ten pages of e-mail correspondence that are responsive to your request. We believe that these pages meet the threshold established by the courts for proper withholding under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5): protection from disclosure of inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums.

However, we have taken into consideration President Obama's Memorandum of January 21, 2009, and Attorney General Holder's FOIA Guidelines of March 19, 2009, to make the following discretionary release:

1. Internal NARA-only communication. We are releasing in full 6 pages. One page is released in part and withheld in part and one page is withheld in full pursuant to Exemption 5.
2. Inter-agency communication. We are releasing in part and withholding in part 2 pages pursuant to Exemption 5. Both pages are released with redactions.

The limited amount of information that we are withholding is to protect and facilitate the candid inter-agency communications that resulted in the release of the eleven words.

You may appeal any of the denials made in this request by addressing your appeal to the Deputy Archivist (ND), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740. Your appeal should be received within 35 calendar days of the date of

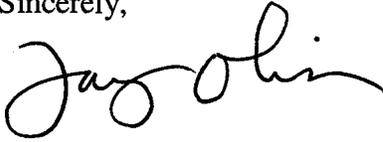
NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and*
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001

www.archives.gov

this letter and it should explain why you feel the withheld information should be released. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." All correspondence should reference the tracking number NGC11-181.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Olin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the beginning of the first name.

JAY OLIN
NARA Deputy FOIA Officer
Office of General Counsel

Alex Daverede - Re: pentagon papers

From: Regina Greenwell
To: Anderson, Claudia; Daverede, Alex; Fidler, Beth; Naftali, Timothy; P...
Date: 06/03/2011 2:34 PM
Subject: Re: pentagon papers
Attachments: [redacted]

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Everyone:

John Wilson and I were doing some background work on editing the press release to add information about the declassified version of the Pentagon Papers that was released by the House Committee on Armed Service in 1971, [redacted] in the printed version we have in our Reading Room. [redacted] The full text of that page was released in 1971 in what appears to be an officially declassified copy.

Does this change what we are opening next week?

Regina Greenwell
LBJ Library
(512) 721-0214

>>> Susan Cooper 6/3/2011 11:01 AM >>>

Attached is a draft release for the pentagon papers. Not sure that everyone is included on this email. If there is someone in your office who needs to see this that is not on the distribution, please pass it on.

I would like to get this out by Wednesday morning at the latest, so I will need to have any/all changes, suggestions, etc by COB on Monday. If I haven't heard from you, I will assume that you approve of the release as it stands.

NPOL folks, pls note that we will need a url for the release.

susan

Susan Cooper
Director, Public Affairs & Communications
National Archives
202-357-5300

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Alex Daverede - Eleven Words

From: Alex Daverede
To: Cooper, Susan
Date: 06/03/2011 3:13 PM
Subject: Eleven Words

Susan,

Due to a discovery by the Johnson Library staff on an OSD-declassified version of the Report, we may not need to redact the 11 words. I have notified the agency involved to get the wheels rolling on their approving the release of the words, so we may have a change in the press release. We may have to speak up to this change, but I'm sure it will be for the better.

I'll let you know as soon as I can of any changes.

A. J.

Alex Daverede - Pentagon Papers Page Issue

From: Alex Daverede
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 06/06/2011 7:44 AM
Subject: Pentagon Papers Page Issue
CC: Shenberger, Sheryl

FOIA (b) 5

[REDACTED]

I just wanted to throw a couple of things to you that you can pass to the folks making this decision.

First, in speaking to the LBJ library folks, the researcher who is most aggressive in pursuing the PP, John Prados, will most likely find the "declassified" occurrence of the page pretty quickly. So please advise everyone that if they insist on maintaining the redaction, Prados will likely scope out the "declassified" page very quickly. As you can tell by his NPR appearance, Prados will parade this discovery like a politician on the 4th of July.

Second, here is some background on this version of the PP. DOD performed a declassification review and redaction of the PP in late 1971 and into 1972 so that the House Armed Services Committee could release the Report in an unclassified form. The Government Printing Office published this unclassified version in 1972 in 12 volumes. The HASC version is out there--you can see copies for sale in the various used book websites.

The reason that all this came to light late is that I did not pay attention to the heavily redacted version of the PP in the course of this project--I felt that OSD would have done such a thorough redaction of the material in 1971 that an examination of that release would have been a waste of time.

I hope this clarified things a bit as the debate moves on.

A. J.

Alex Daverede - Press Release

From: Alex Daverede
To: Cooper, Susan
Date: 06/06/2011 7:47 AM
Subject: Press Release
CC: Shenberger, Sheryl

Susan,

I just wanted to let you know that we will be working the redaction issue today--we should have a decision some time during the day which may have a big impact on what we say in the press release.

A. J.

From: William Bosanko
To: Shenberger, Sheryl
Date: 6/6/2011 8:16 AM
Subject: Re: Pentagon Papers Page Issue

Figures. I should have made that prediction. With decades of review done with an agency-centric approach, and review done with generic guides...the volume is catching up with us.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheryl Shenberger
To: Bosanko, William <William.Bosanko@nara.gov>

Sent: 6/6/2011 8:06:28 AM
Subject: Fw: Pentagon Papers Page Issue

I am at All this morning. This is just an FYI that I will explain later: late Friday LBJ found a PP version that OSD had done way back and that had released our 11 words.

From: Sheryl Shenberger
To: William Bosanko
Date: 6/6/2011 8:23 AM
Subject: Re: Pentagon Papers Page Issue

Hmm. That release was frankly unauthorized. BUT I expect they will be.

-----Original Message-----

From: William Bosanko
To: Sheryl Shenberger <Sheryl.Shenberger@nara.gov>

Sent: 6/6/2011 8:19:28 AM
Subject: Re: Pentagon Papers Page Issue

I assume the 11 will be released now?

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheryl Shenberger
To: Bosanko, William <William.Bosanko@nara.gov>

Sent: 6/6/2011 8:17:45 AM
Subject: Re: Pentagon Papers Page Issue

Shoot I meant AI; I cant keep this typing straight.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheryl Shenberger
To: William Bosanko <William.Bosanko@nara.gov>

Sent: 6/6/2011 8:06:28 AM
Subject: Fw: Pentagon Papers Page Issue

I am at All this morning. This is just an FYI that I will explain later: late Friday LBJ found a PP version that OSD had done way back and that had released our 11 words.

6 June 2011

A.J.,

We approve release in full of the [redacted] for use in the
Pentagon Papers. [redacted]

FOIA (b) 5

[redacted]

Alex Daverede - 11 Word Redaction

From: Alex Daverede
To: Cooper, Susan; Fidler, Beth; Greenwell, Regina; Heddon, Melissa; Hou...
Date: 06/06/2011 2:17 PM
Subject: 11 Word Redaction
CC: Shenberger, Sheryl

Based upon continuing discussions and further review of available information, it has been determined that the redactions provided earlier are no longer appropriate. This means that the Report of the OSD Vietnam Task Force has been declassified in full.

I am working with NPOL and IOO (old NPOL) and NWTS to revamp the digital version of the affected volume.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me ask.

A. J.

Alex J. Daverede III
Chief, Production Division
National Declassification Center
National Archives and Records Administration
(301) 837-1647
alex.daverede@nara.gov

Alex Daverede - Re: 11 Word Redaction

From: Sheryl Shenberger
To: Cooper, Susan; Daverede, Alex; Fidler, Beth; Greenwell, Regina; Hedd...
Date: 06/06/2011 2:59 PM
Subject: Re: 11 Word Redaction
CC: Bosanko, William

It is always a fine day for the declassification community when our cooperation leads to a positive outcome both for ourselves and for the public. This center is founded on interagency collaboration, and all agencies should have the security that such a collaborative atmosphere can provide. Therefore, I think we can all agree that it is unnecessary to provide any further insight into what was originally considered for redaction or which agency or agencies were suggesting those redactions. It should be enough to announce that we, a government-wide entity encompassing both federal and presidential records, are delighted to have determined that we can release this historic document in full.

Sheryl

Sheryl J. Shenberger
Director/National Declassification Center
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park MD 20740-6001
301-837-0585

>>> Alex Daverede 6/6/2011 2:17 PM >>>

Based upon continuing discussions and further review of available information, it has been determined that the redactions provided earlier are no longer appropriate. This means that the Report of the OSD Vietnam Task Force has been declassified in full.

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me ask.

A. J.

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