

Text of Study on Ellsberg

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Following is the text of the Central Intelligence Agency's first psychological study of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg. It was prepared in early August, 1971, at the request of the White House in connection with its investigation of the disclosure of the Pentagon papers. This study was found unsatisfactory and a second was prepared.

This indirect personality assessment is based primarily on background material and current impressions derived from press reports, including newspaper and magazine articles and television interviews. In addition, selected State Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation memoranda have been reviewed. As the data base is fragmentary and there has been no direct clinical evaluation of the subject, this indirect assessment should be considered highly speculative and in no way definitive.

There is nothing to suggest in the material reviewed that subject suffers from a serious mental disorder in the sense of being psychotic and out of touch with reality. There are suggestions, however, that some of his long-standing personality needs were intensified by psychological pressures of the mid-life period and that this may have contributed significantly to his recent actions.

'Extremely Intelligent'

An extremely intelligent and talented individual, subject apparently early made his brilliance evident. It seems likely that there were substantial pressures to succeed and that subject early had instilled in him expectations of success, that he absorbed the impression that he was special and destined for greatness. And indeed he did attain considerable academic success and seemed slated for a brilliant career. There has been a notable zealous intensity about the subject throughout his career. Apparently finding it difficult to tolerate ambiguity and ambivalence, he was either strongly for something or strongly against it. There were suggestions of problems in achieving full success, for although his ideas glittered, he had trou-

ble committing himself in writing.

He had a knack for drawing attention to himself and at early ages had obtained positions of considerable distinction, usually attaching himself as a "bright young man" to an older and experienced man of considerable stature who was attracted by his brilliance and flair.

But one can only sustain the role of "bright young man" so long. Most men between the ages of 35 and 45 go through a period of re-evaluation. Realizing that youth is at an end, that

many of their golden dreams cannot be achieved, many men transiently drift into despair at this time.

In an attempt to escape from these feelings of despair and to regain a sense of competence and mastery, there is an increased trust towards new activity at this time. Thus this is a time of career changes, of extra-marital affairs and divorce.

It is a time when many men come to doubt their earlier commitments and are

impelled to strike out in new directions.

For the individual who is particularly driven towards the heights of success and prominence, this mid-life period may be a particularly difficult time. The evidence reviewed suggests that this was so for Ellsberg, a man whose career had taken off like a rocket, but who found himself at mid-life not nearly having achieved the prominence and success he expected and desired.

Thus it may well have been an intensified need to achieve significance that impelled him to release the

Exclusion of 3 Volumes

There is no suggestion that subject thought anything treasonous in his act. Rather, he seemed to be responding to what he deemed a higher order of patriotism. His exclusion of the three volumes of the papers concerned with the secret negotiations would support this.

Many of subject's own words would confirm the impression that he saw himself as having a special mission, and indeed as bearing a special responsibility. On several occasions he castigated himself for not releasing the papers earlier, observing that since he first brought them to the attention of the [Senate] Foreign Relations Committee, there had been "two invasions," more than 9,000 American lives lost, and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese deaths.

Reactions 'Instructive'

He also on several occasions had suggested quite strongly that his action will not only alter the shape of the Vietnam war, but will materially influence the conduct of our foreign policy and the relationship between the people and the Government.

Ellsberg's reactions since emerging from seclusion have been instructive. Initially there was jubilation, an apparent enjoyment of the limelight. This was succeeded by a transient period wherein there was a sense of quiet satisfaction, of acceptance of his new-found stature, as if his personally significant actions had accomplished what he sought to achieve.

But then, embittered that Congress and the press had not wholeheartedly supported him, he turned against them. This is not surprising, for there would seem to be an insatiable quality to Ellsberg's strong need for success and recognition.