



The New York Times/Barton Silverman

PUBLISHER RETURNS FROM LONDON: Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, president and publisher of The New York Times, answering queries at news session at Kennedy Airport.

Sulzberger Terms Documents 'History'

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, president and publisher of The New York Times, said yesterday that the documents on the origins of the Vietnam war whose publication has been curbed by court order are "a part of history that should have been made available long ago."

Mr. Sulzberger made the comment at a news conference at John F. Kennedy International Airport just after he arrived on a flight from London. He had been in England on a business trip since Monday.

In reply to a question asking whether he felt that national security could be endangered by the publication of the Pentagon report, Mr. Sulzberger replied:

"I certainly do not. This was not a breach of the national security. We gave away no na-

tional secrets. We didn't jeopardize any American soldiers or marines overseas. These papers, I think, as our editorial said this morning, are a part of history."

Mr. Sulzberger said he thought that governments often "stamp secret on too many things because they don't want people to find out things that are embarrassing to them."

He was then asked if his newspaper "should be the arbiter of whether or not particular documents threaten the security of the United States?"

"No," he replied. "You see, we can't read through all the Government documents. I suppose it's up to the Government; I wish the Government used its head a little bit more."

"There are tons of documents—even from World War II,

which has been over 25 years now—that are still classified secret. And, I think, that it's a wonderful way if you've got egg on your face to prevent anybody from knowing it: stamp it secret and put it away."

In response to a question asking what political impact the publication might have on President Nixon, Mr. Sulzberger answered: "I hope it will have an impact on the President. I don't know that it will be a political impact. I think it'll open a lot of people's eyes as to what happened during those years when all the people in the press were apparently being told one story, and the Government, the people close to the Government, were having something else told to them."

6-17-71 NYT