



C.B.S. News

Daniel Ellsberg as he appeared in television interview

Ellsberg, on TV, Blames U.S. for 25 Years of War

By LINDA CHARLTON

Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, the former Government official who has been reported to have been the source of the Pentagon study on Vietnam drawn on by The New York Times, appeared on television last night in a

Transcript of comments by Ellsberg, Page 17.

brief interview that was his first public statement since publication of the papers began.

An eight-minute segment of a longer, taped interview with Dr. Ellsberg by Walter Cronkite

was shown at 7 P.M. on C.B.S. television.

The interview with Dr. Ellsberg, who is 40 years old and now a senior research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for International Studies, did not touch on the question of whether he was responsible for making the 7,000-page Pentagon study available to The New York Times.

"Perhaps because of his clearly delicate legal position, he will not talk right now, of

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whatever part he played in the release of the secret documents," Mr. Cronkite said at the start of the interview, which was filmed at "a secret location" that resembled a room in a private home more than a television studio.

Dr. Ellsberg talked about the effect that working on the study and later reading it several times, had on him. The "real lessons to be drawn" from the study, he said, "are yet to be seen by the public" when they are able to realize "the whole sweep" of the 47-volume study.

"There's never been a year when there would have been a war in Indochina without American money fueling it," he said.

His "perception," which he said he believed was shared by many Americans, once had been "that this was an ongoing war which we had joined." The study showed "on the contrary," he said, "if we had not been supplying the money and the napalm, buying soldiers . . ." there would have been violence—"assassinations, raids, some degree of guerrilla action"—but there "wouldn't have been anything that looked like a war."

That means, he said, "that Americans bear major responsibility, as I read this history, of every death in combat in Indochina in the last 25 years—and that's one to two million people."

Dr. Ellsberg was asked if, in

reading the history, he had found any "heroes" among the protagonists:

"I think of the man I read about named Bernard, who put his rifle down to the ground at the risk of his life and refused the orders of his superior commander to fire at civilians at Mylai," Mr. Ellsberg said, speaking slowly.

He added, after a pause: "He's a hero." Then, asked if he had found no heroes "on a higher level," Dr. Ellsberg sighed, hesitated several seconds, and said:

"That's—that's a hard question you've asked me. I hate—I hate not to find it easy to answer. I hate as an American not to find it easy to answer."

But, he went on, it had been "hard" to find men "who have lived up to the responsibilities of their office, in terms not only of what they did but of what they could have done . . . what they should have done, given their feelings."

Dr. Ellsberg, who was last seen publicly at lunch at the M.I.T. Faculty Club on June 16, is said by friends to have moved to his present outspoken opposition from a previously "hawkish" attitude. He is at work on a book concerning United States decision-making in Indochina during the last quarter-century.

He spent two years in Vietnam with the State Department as a liaison officer and was a special assistant to the late John T. McNaughton, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

United Press International reported that the film had been made in Boston and transmitted to C.B.S. in New York through WHDH-TV, the network's local affiliate.