

PAPER IN ST. LOUIS DEFENDS ARTICLES

Says It Published Pentagon Data 'in Public Interest'

By MURRAY ILLSON

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch yesterday published 38 columns of articles drawn from the Pentagon papers on United States involvement in Vietnam.

David Lipman, assistant managing editor of The Post-Dispatch, said that the newspaper had "no reservations" about its belief "that publication of the material was called for in the public interest."

Mr. Lipman would not say how the newspaper had acquired the documents or whether it would print additional installments.

Mr. Lipman said that the Pentagon papers were studied carefully before the decision was made to publish them. "We did not think, and do not think now, that their publication represented any breach of national security to the best of our knowledge," he said.

'A Right to Read'

"It is our belief," he said, "that the American public has a right to read and interpret for themselves the content of these historic papers."

Mr. Lipman said that The Post-Dispatch had received "a substantial amount" of the Pentagon papers, including official memoranda.

The articles published yesterday by The Post-Dispatch were written by the newspaper's chief Washington correspondent, Richard Dudman, and two others of its Washington staff, Thomas W. Ottenad and James Deakin.

Mr. Dudman was captured in Cambodia last year and held for 40 days along with two other American journalists.

Boston Hearing Postponed

In Boston, a hearing scheduled for yesterday on a Government motion for a preliminary injunction to prevent The Boston Globe from publishing articles based on copies of the Pentagon papers was postponed Thursday night until next Tuesday.

One reason for the delay, it was understood, was that the judge and lawyers for the Government and The Globe preferred to await the outcome of litigation involving The New York Times and The Washington Post that is now before the Supreme Court in Washington.

The Globe was placed under a temporary restraining order by Federal District Court Judge Anthony Julian in Boston on Tuesday after it had printed portions of the secret documents. The Government was prepared yesterday to present evidence that further publication of the papers by The Globe would be harmful to national security.

United States Attorney Herbert F. Travers Jr. said in an interview that both The Globe and the Government had agreed to the postponement.

Thomas Winship, editor of The Globe, said yesterday that the newspaper's lawyers had requested the delay because they needed more time to pre-

pare motions. It was said that the newspaper was planning to request that it be allowed to inspect the full 47 volumes of the Pentagon documents on United States involvement in the war.

Meanwhile, The Chicago Tribune, in a front-page editorial yesterday, suggested that a group of editors and Government officials study the Pentagon papers to decide what could be published and then distribute the material to all news media.

The Tribune, which has not published any of the Pentagon material, said that "we may be vulnerable to a charge of sour grapes."

The Tribune said it had tried unsuccessfully to get part of the material after The New

York Times and The Washington Post had been enjoined from publishing it.

The Tribune said that it would not be fair for the courts to authorize publication of the documents in some papers and not in others.

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