

# Defendants United in Opposing War

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3—Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr. are such different men that, but for the accident of their being in Vietnam at the same time, one might be surprised to find them co-defendants.

Both are intelligent, perhaps brilliant, Dr. Ellsberg a specialist in economics and political science, Mr. Russo an aeronautical engineer and economist. Both oppose the war in Vietnam.

Dr. Ellsberg, 41-years-old, is a lean, intense man who wears expensive well-tailored suits, whose graying hair is fashionably long, who sits in court scribbling notes on a legal pad, who never doubts he was right in making the Pentagon papers public, but who often tortures himself with the thought that the desired effect of that action, shortening the war, was not accomplished. He seeks assurance that his action was important.

He says he intends to make his trial a political one, not challenging the judicial process but rather trying to use it to educate.

## Background Is Varied

He believes his guilt or innocence will be determined on the basis of national political issues outside the courtroom, such as American policy in Vietnam and whether there will be peace there. "I think it will be very instructive for the people of this country," he has said of the trial. "The issues that are going to be raised are issues

of great concern. They're incomparably more important than what happens to me."

Dr. Ellsberg has come to this position from a varied philosophical background. He has gone from Harvard prodigy to Marine officer seeking combat, from cold-minded analyst of nuclear war to weary observer of pacification in Vietnam; from a once hawkish Rand Corporation analyst and respected State and Defense Department adviser to the man who became a committed opponent of the war he helped shape.

He has studied at Cambridge and at Harvard, where he specialized in economics, political science and the branch of psychology known as decision theory. His doctoral dissertation was in games theory, which has come into use in military planning. His last position was that of a research associate at the Massachusetts sociate at the Massachusets

## A Writer of Poetry

Mr. Russo, 36, is a rumpled-looking, bear-like, almost rambunctious man who wears corduroy pants and jackets, who writes poetry and who says loudly in court "haste makes waste" when he believes the judge is unfairly trying to speed the legal proceedings.

He says he does not want to be a martyr. "On balance I'd rather not be indicted," he once said. "I've had enough. I wish they'd leave me alone." He has asked the court to declare him a pau-

per so that the Government will pay for his defense.

He says he was "radicalized" by his experience in Vietnam, where he inter-Vietcong prisoners, and he returned home a committed foe of American foreign policy.

Mr. Russo helped design the first American space capsule. As a graduate fellow in plasma physics in the engineering department at Princeton, he earned a master's degree; he also received a master's degree at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs, where he specialized in foreign policy.

Like Dr. Ellsberg, he went to work for the Rand Corporation and spent 24 months in Vietnam. There, in 1965, he met Dr. Ellsberg, then a State Department official. The two men became friends three years later when both returned to the Rand Corporation in nearby Santa Monica. Persons associated with the trial say that since the period when they allegedly collaborated to make the Pentagon papers public, their friendship has cooled considerably.

Mr. Russo's last position was with the Los Angeles Probation Department. In the fall of 1971 he spent 47 days in jail for contempt after refusing to testify before a grand jury here investigating the Pentagon papers case. While in jail he went on a hunger strike to show sympathy for the prisoners in the Attica prison-uprising.

NYT  
1-4-73



The New York Times/Judith Kinard

**Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, left, and Anthony J. Russo Jr. outside court in Los Angeles**