

SF Examiner JUL 1 1971
Ellsberg: Secrecy

Cost 50,000 Lives

Examiner News Services

BOSTON — The man who says he leaked Pentagon secrets to the New York Times charged today that government secrecy has led to the deaths of 50,000 Americans.

Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher who once worked for the Pentagon, told a news conference:

"The concealment of this information for 20 years has led to the deaths of 50,000 Americans and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese.

"Look where secrecy in the executive branch has led us. That's why I released the documents."

Asked to comment on Supreme Court Justice John Harlan's comment that the disclosures would account for more American combat deaths in Indochina, Ellsberg said:

"The odds have been weighted in favor of secrecy for 20 years . . . it's time citizens be given the chance to judge for themselves where secrecy has led us."

Ellsberg said he has given other documents on the Pentagon study of the Vietnam war to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which he considers "too sensitive"

—Turn to Page 2, Col. 7

Ellsberg: Secrecy Costly

—From Page 1

to release to the American press.

Papers

"There were several volumes dealing with negotiations through private channels to end the war," Ellsberg said.

"I didn't think there was an absolutely overriding necessity to give those volumes to the press because the channels haven't yet been used. I didn't want to get into the way of those negotiations but I gave them to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee because I thought it was something they should know," he said.

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) the committee chairman, acknowledged that the committee had received some Pentagon documents from Ellsberg. He said he had them put in the committee's safe and had not read them.

Ellsberg said "The newspapers share the responsibility for the decision to bring this history to the American public.

"For my part, the press had to have the material before it could print it," he said.

Praises McNamara

He attempted to justify his part in the disclosures by saying, "I felt the public was not well-served by relying on me and a dozen other experts to analyze this information and give decisions in secret to the executive branch.

Ellsberg praised former



DANIEL ELLSBERG
Some papers withheld
—UPI Photo

Defense Secretary Robert McNamara for ordering the study in 1968.

Asked whether he supplied the documents to some or all of the newspapers which have printed them, he replied, "To my knowledge, all of them."

Personal Tastes

But, he added, "It is implicit in what I've said that other individuals helped out. But I will not make decisions for them by making their names public.

"I think I was the source of all the documents" that were presented to newspapers, "but if there were other people in the act, that's fine.

"I don't think," he said, that any paper that was offered the papers turned him down.

"I satisfied certain personal tastes. I wanted to give the information to the papers I thought had told me the truth in the past.