

U.S. Said to Be Planning to Seek Indictment of a Times Reporter

Special to The New York Times

BOSTON, July 14—Justice Department was reported today to be planning to ask a Federal grand jury here to hand down a criminal indictment against Neil Sheehan, a reporter for The New York Times, in connection with the revelation of the Pentagon papers. The grand jury is investigating how the secret Pentagon study of the Vietnam war was made available to the press.

Sources close to the investigation said that Mr. Sheehan, whose investigative reporting led to the disclosure, was the main subject of information presented to the jury by the Government last week.

The presentation, the sources said, was aimed at an indictment charging that Mr. Sheehan had violated statutes against moving stolen property in interstate commerce by receiving secret documents taken

from the Government without authorization.

The Government, it was said, is seeking to demonstrate that Mr. Sheehan knew that the copy of the study he used was taken without authorization and that he therefore knowingly received stolen property.

Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, who has said that he gave the papers to the press, has been charged with unlawful possession of classified documents. The Times has refused to discuss the source of its material.

Paul Vincent, a member of the Internal Security Division of the Justice Department, has been sent from Washington to guide the presentation to the grand jury. Mr. Vincent, who has been involved in actions related to the Pentagon papers in New York and Los Angeles, could not be reached for comment.

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