DATA DENIED McNAMARA, ELLSBERG SAYS

by Robert M. Smith

Washington, July 9 - Daniel Ellsberg asserted today that Pentagon officials working for the Joint Chiefs of Staff kept from Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara the existence of a study of the 1964 Tonkin Gulf incident.

Dr. Ellsberg, who has been indicted on charges of unauthorized possession of secret documents in the Pentagon papers case, said that the Defense Department officials the "definitely and deliberately withheld it from/Secretary of Defense until Fulbright raised the question.

"The reason they were so jealous of it," said
Dr. Ellsberg, "was they did not want the Secretary of Defense
to know they had certain data - tapes of the Secretary's
conversations with joint and subordinate commanders overseas.
[They] didn't want it known their file of C.I.A. messages was
so complete."

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