

ELLSBERG ASSERTS OTHERS AIDED HIM

Says They Helped Distribute Secret Data to All Papers That Printed Articles

By Robert Reinhold  
Special to The New York Times

Cambridge, Mass., July 1 - Dr. Daniel Ellsberg said today that "other individuals, whom he would not identify, had assisted him in distributing to the press the secret Pentagon papers on Vietnam. He said that he was the primary source for all the newspapers that have published articles based on the documents.

The 40-year-old former Pentagon aide, who is under Federal indictment charging him with unauthorized possession of secret documents, also said that during the 10 days in which he disappeared from view before his arrest he made sure that the papers were delivered to newspapers throughout the country.

He said that he had begun to fear that his plans would be thwarted by the Government's attempt to prevent The New York Times from publishing the documents.

The Times has refused to discuss the source of the material it drew upon for its Vietnam series.

Although Dr. Ellsberg declined to discuss the details of his activities, his statements helped explain the sudden appearance of segments of the documents in a number of newspapers.

Dr. Ellsberg, sometimes raising his voice in anger, spoke before nine television cameras and about 100 American and foreign newsmen at a news conference in a ballroom of the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge.

He took pains to shift the

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focus of the questions to the substance of the papers, saying: "The time has come for the public to form its own opinion — it has the opportunity. It can only do that by reading the words of their public servants themselves and make their own decisions on how well they have been served and how they want to be served in the future."

**Secrecy 'Gotten Too Good'**

Later he added, "It is evident that the ability of this country to keep secrets has gotten too good for our good."

Dr. Ellsberg, who is free on \$50,000 bail, said that he had intended ultimately to assume responsibility for his activities, asserting that he had dropped from sight because of "the action of the Administration to censor this material and the possibility that they might be successful."

"At that point," he went on, "the decision that I made two years ago that this information should be made available to Congress and the public called on me to get to work and take some further action to make

sure that it was available to the press and the public. I needed some privacy for it."

It was "implicit" that others "helped out in various ways," he said, but he declined to name them because "I am not going to make a decision for other individuals."

**Doesn't Identify Papers**

Asked if he gave the documents to The New York Times, he replied: "I'm not going to name individual papers, I gave them to the papers of this country."

"It is for The New York Times to decide how far they want to go in concealing their sources, and they have done a service to this country by defending that in the Supreme Court."

But moments later he was asked if he had given documents to all the papers that had published articles on them.

"To my knowledge all of them," he replied. "Now if some other people are getting in on the act, that's fine. I'm not aware of that."

He added that he had "satisfied certain personal tastes" in choosing which newspapers were to get copies, saying "I was anxious to give it to news-

papers that I thought had told me the truth in the past." He did not elaborate, but he denied that all the recipients were anti-war, citing The Washington Post and The Christian Science Monitor as two papers that did not share his viewpoint about the war.

Regarding yesterday's Supreme Court decision allowing further publication of the documents, he reacted angrily to Justice Harry A. Blackmun's dissenting opinion that the war might be prolonged and the return of prisoners delayed as a result of the study.

"I released these studies because concealment of this information for 25 years has now led to the death of 50,000 Americans, several hundred thousand Vietnamese in the last few years. A couple of million in over 20 years," he said.

"Judgment at this point of whether the American public is to be trusted to make these decisions versus the executive branch can now be judged by you, by citizens, and by the courts and Congress in the light of where secrecy has led us the last 25 years."

Dr. Ellsberg, who is a senior research associate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

here, said he decided that "It was urgent for me to get this history out at whatever jeopardy" two years ago when it became apparent to him that the Nixon Administration was "subject to the same trap of arrogance and ignorance" as the previous administration, in which he served. He said that "the policy was essentially the same, tactically different in terms of reducing American manpower, but the same in terms of using military method to avoid "defeat or failure in Vietnam for the administration that happens at this moment to be in office."

He said that President Johnson did not lack accurate intelligence estimates from the Central Intelligence Agency before escalating the war.

"The decisions seem to have been made year after year in the light of what was adequate information to make better decisions," he said. "If the President had this information available, why did he ignore it, why did he listen to Walt Rostow and McGeorge Bundy as expert on Vietnam instead of people who had a very good track record of prediction? I do not have any conclusive answer to that."