

Data Denied McNamara, Ellsberg Says

By ROBERT M. SMITH

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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 "definitely and deliberately withheld it from the 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."

Mr. McNamara, now president of the World Bank, was called for comment on Dr. Ells-

berg's assertion but did not return the call.

Dr. Ellsberg, a 40-year-old senior research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, made his remarks to a small group of reporters at a breakfast meeting here.

He said that he had been a consultant to the Pentagon in 1968 when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held its hearings on the Tonkin incident. The North Vietnamese were reported to have attacked American destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin in August, 1964, and Congress had responded with a resolution giving its approval to "all necessary steps" taken by the President to repel "further aggression" in Southeast Asia.

"I remember the flap raised" by Senator Fulbright's request, Dr. Ellsberg said.

The transcript of the hearings on Feb. 20, 1968, show that Senator Fulbright said he had asked the pentagon for its "command and control documents."

In his response, Mr. McNamara said that he had "never

heard of the study when you requested it. General Wheeler [Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs] was not aware of it."

'High Official' Cited

Mr. McNamara told the committee that "the author of this particular study did not have access" to all the appropriate information and that he did not "think you want evaluative reports sent over here that are incomplete."

Dr. Ellsberg said that he was told by "a very high official" on the operations staff of the Joint Chiefs that the study was regarded as "sensitive" because it used tapes of Mr. McNamara's conversations through the war room to commanders, including Admiral U. S. Grant Sharp, Commander of Pacific Forces.

Dr. Ellsberg, who has said that he gave the Pentagon papers "to the American people through the press," today added that "there was at least one other source" of the documents to one newspaper. He named neither the source nor the newspaper.