

Ellsberg's 'Role' in Peace

Los Angeles

Daniel Ellsberg said yesterday he feels his release of the secret Pentagon Papers helped speed a Vietnam peace, but at his trial the government continued efforts to prove him guilty of espionage, conspiracy and theft.

Ellsberg told reporters he doubts that the Vietnam cease-fire will have any effect on the case in which he and Anthony Russo are on trial. And he expressed skepticism of how long the peace would last.

He said the government would seek to prove through the trial that secrecy — including classification of the

Pentagon Papers and, by implication, President Nixon's silence during peace negotiations — is justified.

"A major effort will be made by the administration again to glamorize and legitimize secrecy," Ellsberg said, "by associating it with an event about which we're all very happy, the announcement of peace in Vietnam. I think that's a fraud."

Russo told reporters, "I just hope that Americans have learned one thing from this entire messy involvement: that there is a need to renew the American Revolution. The First Amendment is the essence of the Ameri-

can Revolution, and we have to get back to that."

The First Amendment covering freedom of speech and press is considered an issue in the trial.

In the trial courtroom, the government prosecutor showed jurors numerous slides of pages from the top secret Pentagon study of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war.

As the slides rolled by, government witness Brigadier General Paul F. Gorman, the top military supervisor of the Pentagon Papers project, told jurors why he believed release of the papers would have helped a foreign power.

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