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Krogh's Court Statement

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 30— Following is the text of a statement read today in Federal court by Egil Krogh Jr. upon entering a plea of guilty to a civil rights charge:

The sole basis for my defense was to have been that I acted in the interest of national security. However, upon serious and lengthy reflection, I now feel that the sincerity of my motivation cannot justify what was done, and that I cannot in conscience assert national security as a defense. I am therefore pleading guilty because I have no defense to this charge. I will make a detailed statement as to my reasons which I will submit to the court and make public prior to sentencing.

My decision is based upon what I think and feel is right and what I consider to be the best interests of the nation. The values expressed by Your Honor in the hearing on defense motions on Nov. 13 particularly brought home to

me the transcendent importance of the rule of law over the motivations of man.

I have expressed to the special prosecutor's office my desire that I not be required to testify in this area until after sentencing. My plea today is based on conscience, and I want to avoid any possible suggestion that I am seeking leniency through testifying. The special prosecutor's office has expressed no objection to this position.

My coming to this point today stems from my asking myself what ideas I wanted to stand for, what I wanted to represent to myself and to my family and to be identified with for the rest of my experience. I simply feel that what was done in the Ellsberg operation was in violation of what I perceive to be a fundamental idea in this country—the paramount importance of the rights of the individual. I don't want to be associated with that violation any longer by attempting to defend it.



United Press International

Egil Krogh Jr., right, after he pleaded guilty in Washington yesterday. At left is his lawyer, Stephen N. Shulman.