

# Psychiatric Profile of Ellsberg Prepared

by C.I.A.

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WASHINGTON, July 18—Following is the text of a psychiatric profile of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency at the direction of the White House. The profile, the second of two prepared, was compiled by a man who had never met Dr. Ellsberg. It was released today by the House Judiciary Committee as part of the evidence gathered in the impeachment inquiry.

## 78.4 C.I.A. ASSESSMENT OF DANIEL ELLSBERG, NOVEMBER, 1971

In considering the comments contained in these notes, it is important to hold in mind a number of factors, any one of which might seriously distort the picture. While an effort has been made to illustrate historically the basis for the ideas presented, the over-all result must necessarily be highly impressionistic and at any given juncture further investigation of the facts might support other (and contrary) conclusions. All of the material is available second hand (or further removed) and the *sine qua non* of the psychiatric approach is to obtain information directly from the person himself (even the subject's direct quotations are subject to the distortions of the reporter).

There has of course been no exhaustive or complete review of all available material and the impressions contained herein are based only on what has been supplied and what has been available in open sources. These ideas have not been subjected to the usual leavening effect of time, nor has it been possible because of time pressures to subject these concepts to the time-tested procedure of peer review. Unusually candid autobiographical material contained in a *Look* October, 1971, article may seem at first blush very helpful and clear, but because of the subject's propensity to seemingly abrupt about-faces, the information may be all the more distorted.

Finally, the circumstances and uncertainties surrounding the entire case, the vagaries of the future, and the difficulties in foreseeing how or if in what way the ideas contained herein can be utilized have entered into the drawing up of these notes.

### No Evidence of Disturbance

A very intelligent man, the subject also seems to be a person with very strong, although fluctuant, emotional attachments. There is, however, no available evidence to indicate that he is emotionally disturbed in a psychotic or gross manner. Very little is available about his early background, but at 15 he did an about-switch when he gave up the piano at which he had been very proficient, and by his senior high school year he was captain of the basketball team.

The loss of interest in the piano, and the subsequent concentration on a sport were associated with an automobile accident which led to his wearing a cast for a year because of a broken knee. His father was driving and his mother and sister were killed. His father subsequently remarried. *It is possible that strong feelings of resentment and rage and frustration stirred up by death and personal illness or injury are associated with his apparently sudden and extreme shifts in loyalty and enthusiasm.*

In April, 1967, the subject was ill with hepatitis in Bangkok. That summer he returned from Vietnam. He had vigorously favored and participated in the pacification efforts of the Vietnam countryside as espoused by General Lansdale, and he had not been ostensibly distressed at that time by taking part in

search-and-destroy missions in which it is quite possible that he actually killed the enemy himself. In 1967, John McNaughton, for whom he had worked in 1964-1965, was killed in an airplane accident.

It was in these circumstances, and on returning to the United States, that he retrospectively first speaks of feeling more and more that the United States should get out of Vietnam. It is possible that the anger and frustration engendered by his hepatitis (and immobilization by bedrest) combined with the loss by an accident of an erstwhile mentor (McNaughton), mobilized a shift in his views. (There may also have been dis-

appointment in his relationship with General Lansdale.)

But if the subject were this sensitive to these not uncommon stresses of life, what would account for the sudden shifts in his idealas, and in their emotional underpinnings? His central theme for leaking the Pentagon papers has been that "the executive" should not alone have so much unshared power as to plunge the country into war and the misery and death that it brings. It is probable that the subject is not only referring here to the various Presidents, but also to his own father whom, after all, he saw as responsible for the death of his mother and sister, injuring him to boot.

Such feelings of jealousy toward his father (or latter-day versions of it) are the outgrowth of the male child's intensive unsettled rivalry with his father for the mother. Whether this intense anger toward his father arose out of resentment toward him for taking the mother from him by death, or whether out of resentment at the father for not accepting him in her place and for marrying another woman, cannot be discerned from the material available.

### Concern Over War Cited

However, the writer would incline toward the latter because of his recurring disappointment in men whom he looks up to and tries to please. Through the years his intense resentment of his father and later those in authority over him was probably to some degree masked by his intellectual gifts which enabled him to differ, to contend, and to disagree in a rather useful way.

It is even likely that important men were attracted and interested in this brilliant young man. But the relationships never seem to have been lasting ones, probably because at close range his essentially destructive resentment toward these men was sensed. (He was nudged out of the McNamara study be-

cause his supervisors were uneasy with him.)

And yet, there is also an element of desiring to please to be influenced by, and to placate an important man, through the use of his natural gifts. Over the years, one can see that this might have been so with Professor Crane Brinton at Harvard (to whom he gave quasi-secret information about his military units), with Secretary McNaughton, with General Lansdale, and with his supervisors on the McNamara study.

But he always moved on—the Society of Fellows at Harvard provides a fellowship for three years, yet the subject remained only two before going with Rand; he was at Defense for only a few months before going to State, and thence to Vietnam and Lansdale's staff, and he did not remain in Vietnam with Lansdale, but returned to the United States. It is probable that an important element in his moving on is associated with his dislike of these submissive qualities in himself.

It is also probable that his blatant sexual activities with different women served as reassurance that he was his own man. It is possible that the very variety of women (Swedish to East Indian) was in itself an added assurance, but one cannot say further as to his choice of particular women based on the available material.

### Changing Loyalties Analyzed

*In the opinion of the writer, the intense injury to his pride, the rage and murderous anger which is stirred up when his gifts and abilities are not given proper recognition as he wishes is the motivating force for his shifting enthusiasms and for his search for another who will give him his proper due.* Such a sense of entitlement and revenge may at times also be seen in association with shifting loyalties and ideals in the adolescent, in love, in religion, as well as in political or patriotic allegiances.

But this subject's intelligence and ability to carry out his revenge is of special note. Certainly there is evidence that the subject was reacting with intensity when he called his analyst in the spring of 1971 after leaking the Pentagon papers to say, "I'm free." It is quite true that in the highly competent kind of analysis with which it can be said with certainty that he was treated, that the non-responsiveness of the analyst in the manner that gives proper recognition as the patient wishes it for the gifts that are brought in the subject's case probably a dazzling intelligence and security information about the Pentagon and for the work which is done in the analysis can mobilize intense anger and rage so compelling that the patient must leave the treatment situation to avoid actual physical violence to the analyst.

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The subject did leave the analysis after two years (whether terminated by the analyst because of such potentials or by the patient matters little here), and to an important degree the leaking of the Pentagon papers was also an act of aggression at his analyst, as well as at the President and his father. The continuing search for a senior official who would appreciate his gifts is seen in his efforts to interest Senator Fulbright, Senator McGovern, a Federal judge, and possibly Representative McClosky, as well as Henry Kissinger, whom he supposedly visited in the fall of 1970, and in his appearance at informal hearings on Capitol Hill in the spring of 1971.

It is possible that the subject is imbued with a certain degree of guilt at the strength of his murderous impulses, the results of which in this instance of the Pentagon papers are harder for him to ignore. He has made statements that he expected to go to prison, even that he should go to prison for participating in murder (of Vietnamese). However, his sense of conscience has never been severe enough to lead to any such clear punishment-seeking behavior in the past, and it seems likely that on balance he will actively seek to avoid such an end.

#### **Antiwar Activities**

It is of course possible that the subject has more documents with which he will seek to continue to pursue his odyssey of being appreciated and disappointed by a senior personage. He has been somewhat active in various antiwar appearances which provide some small, cold measure of what he seeks.

More importantly, however, he must also contend with the fact that in spite of the tumult and turmoil engendered by his disclosures, that he has been essentially unsuccessful in gaining his vengeful primary objective — diluting the power of "the executive." Rather, Vietnam is fading somewhat as the foreign affairs focus of the country shift to the President's upcoming trips to Moscow and Peking.

It is probable that the subject, left to his own devices, will continue to play out his pattern of seeking to gain and failing to find the appreciation of important and senior people. Such recurring hopes of course offer the possibility that an important and senior person to whom he would bring gifts would for a time have great leverage and influence with him.

Another point of leverage is suggested by his reaction to the disappointment when he is not given his proper due by a senior person for whom he has previously felt respect and admiration. At such times he seems especially prone to change his physical location.

His abilities and his experiences (since June, 1971) have combined to enable him to expect and to some degree receive) a special kind of treatment and attention, but personally his pursuit is doomed to failure, for what he seeks is a close, intimate relation of a boy to his father, and that he can no longer have. He could possibly change this pattern if he were to return to psychiatric treatment; perhaps a modification of analysis. If he were to return and participate wholeheartedly, it is possible that his destructive energy could be contained and even used to affect some change in his repetitive behavior.