

ACLU's New Pentagon Papers Suit

Washington

The American Civil Liberties Union sued the government yesterday for release of the parts of the Pentagon Papers that have yet to reach the public.

The ACLU filed suit the U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia on behalf of former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morton Halperin, asking for a court order releasing the "negotiating volumes" of the Pentagon Papers.

The Papers are records and consultations relating to the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war.

The papers make up four volume, Halperin said, and concern the negotiations between the United States and North Vietnam that led to the Paris peace talks.

Halperin was in charge of preparing the papers when he was in the Department of Defense. Later, he was a consultant for the defense of Daniel Ellsberg, who was cleared of charges that he had violated the espionage law by reproducing the Pentagon Papers.

Halperin works with the Project on National Security and Civil Liberties, a group concerned with issues of government intelligence and freedoms.

He said that when Ellsberg was on trial, the court made the full Pentagon Papers available to the public, but the court did not have a way to make many copies for the public.

After the trial, the papers went to the government, and the State Department contends much of the material must be kept from the public for security reasons, Halperin said.

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