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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Ellsberg on 'Secrets'

From: **Greg Sandow** <GSANDOW@prodigy.net>  
Date: Mon, 16 Dec 1996 22:05:31 -0500  
Fwd Date: Wed, 18 Dec 1996 00:52:27 -0500  
Subject: Ellsberg on 'Secrets'

Ed Stewart did us all a service by recommending the Paul McGinnis website on military secrecy.

I was browsing there, and found -- among other interesting and impressive documents -- testimony Daniel Ellsberg gave before Congress in 1973. Ellsberg, of course, was the foreign policy official who leaked the Pentagon Papers during the Vietnam war. Two years later, there were congressional hearings on military secrecy, and he was asked to tell what he knew.

Here are some excerpts. I imagine many of us will find them fascinating, since they provide first-hand testimony about how baroque and compartmentalized US government secrets really are. They don't prove anything about UFOs, of course -- I think I should stress that, before anyone (including me) jumps to any conclusions. Interestingly, though, I had to edit the text a little. I had to remove annotations from someone who <did> draw pro-MJ-12 conclusions from Ellsberg's testimony, and inserted them at the relevant points. It's a shame, really...Ellsberg's words are strong enough not to need interpretation by anybody.

Greg Sandow

Excerpts follow:

Perhaps I could cut through it best by just relating to you some advice I gave to a man who entered Government 4 years ago, and I might as well name him -- Henry Kissinger -- someone I had known academically or professionally for 10 years. It seemed to me it was appropriate to pass on some thoughts to him in advance and perhaps inoculate him against the transformation that I feared was going to come over this person. It was appropriate to do it to this person because I felt he was going to be initiated into the most esoteric and sinister parts of this system. He was not only going to have a top secret but perhaps a score or two score, for all I know, of the clearances higher than top secret of which I had held an even dozen when I worked as special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

...in December of 1968 in the Hotel Pierre...I said to him, 'You are about to get 10,15, or 20 clearances of a sort that you never knew existed. Their very names are classified.' Code words that identify them on pieces of paper are classified. They are referred to by the first letters of their codewords; they are never to be photographed. That applies only to the lowest of these clearances to which I refer. Secretary McNamara had at least a few more. I wouldn't suggest how many each person had in the Defense Dept. Persons in the White House could have many more in the NSA and CIA and many places I didn't deal with.

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If you had worked all your life with top secret material in the Pentagon for Assistant Secretaries, unless you were one of the elect, you would not be aware that there are entire rooms in the Pentagon with safe doors outside, with a guardian, with a computer list up to date hourly and daily as to who is admitted in that room, and unless you know the codeword and are on that list, you cannot enter that room or know of its existence. It will have a very nondescript door in the hall that will not suggest what is inside. You can go in that room and discover yourself in something like the reading room of the New York Public Library, not a closet, not a safe, but a room with charts, with library shelves of material, no word of which you were previously aware existed. You did not know how it was gotten. You did not know the President had this kind of information at all. Of course, the effect of that is very euphoric at first. You go around and take things off the shelves and begin reading and imagine you are about to learn all the answers, that Godlike knowledge is now available to you. Now, you can be introduced into one of those rooms and still have no idea that there exist still other rooms with other sources of information, other access lists just as large and just as secret. I would say it is not until you have four or five such clearances, that the next level is revealed to you. Then you become aware that there is no limit to this; that these clearances can be generated very quickly in a day or two; and such types of information can be segregated -- I am not saying only from the public or Congress, but even from other people who have two or three other clearances -- very effectively.

Once you have a dozen, from then on, you live in the knowledge there must be others you don't have. Could there be clearances the President doesn't know about? Of course, certainly, without any doubt...Could it, however, be withheld from him? The answer is 'Yes,' and even by close associates. Top Secret, you have heard in testimony, top secret is accessible to 400,000 to 500,000 people...Comint clearance is far more secret, far more sensitive. Members of Congress or their staffs...can't be trusted, but ... 120,000 sergeants, warrant officers, generals and Cabinet secretaries [can]. The next clearance above that cuts way down to about 14,000 to 20,000. What I am saying is that the world of secrets is lived in by a very large number of people, though a very small part of our electorate and only one branch of our Government. Henry Kissinger lives in a much smaller world, a world that for some pieces of information might be inhabited only by a couple of people. ...one White House staffer told me...'I wonder if Henry realizes there were certain things known only to him, the President, and the Army General Staff....' But I am saying, as many as 100,000 or 400,000, nevertheless keep secrets very well because of this apparatus of conspiracy, special channels, special couriers for each clearance. The couriers for one clearance do not know the existence of the other ones. Special briefings, special access lists, special libraries, each separate, the apparatus of an espionage ring; a Government that consists of cells but with the President at the top. Certainly when I say there are clearances that the President may not know of, I say that only to make a point. The more important point is, the President does know virtually all of this....

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The entire document (with the pro-MJ-12 annotations!) can be found at <ftp://members.aol.com/paulmcg/files/ellsberg-on-secrecy>.

Or you can follow the link from the McGinnis site, at <http://www.frogi.org/secrecy.html>

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