

On June 3, 1974, Colson pleaded guilty to a criminal information that read in part:

On or about June 28, 1971, and for a period of time thereafter, in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, CHARLES W. COLSON, the DEFENDANT, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly **did** corruptly endeavor to influence, obstruct and impede the due administration of justice in connection with the criminal trial of Daniel **Ellsberg** under indictment in the case of *United States v. Russo*, Criminal Case No. 9373, United States District Court, Central District of California, by devising and implementing a scheme to **defame** and destroy the public image and credibility of Daniel **Ellsberg** and those engaged in the legal defense of Daniel **Ellsberg**, with the intent to influence, obstruct, and impede the conduct and outcome of the criminal prosecution then being conducted in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. (Book VII, 918-23)

In the early 1970s, Nixon officials such as John Ehrlichman and Henry Kissinger **planted accusations in the U.S. media** that Daniel Ellsberg had secretly given the Pentagon Papers and other key documents to the Soviet Union; everyone now knows this was a lie, but at the time, American journalists repeated it constantly, helping to smear Ellsberg. That's why Ellsberg has constantly defended Snowden and Chelsea Manning from the start: because the same tactics were used to smear him.

This is the first of two articles on the former secret White House investigative unit known as the plumbers.

One was a tear—nourished in part, some sources said, by Henry A. Kissinger, then the President's national security adviser—that Daniel Ellsberg, who said he turned over the Pentagon papers to the press, might pass on to the Soviet Union secrets far more important than any information contained in the Pentagon study of the Vietnam war.

Specifically, the sources said, the White House feared that Dr. Ellsberg, a former Rand Corporation and Defense Department official, may have been a Soviet intelligence informer who, in the weeks after

publication of the Pentagon papers in June, 1971, was capable of turning over details of the most closely held nuclear targeting secrets of the United States, which were contained in a highly classified document known as the Single Integrated Operation Plans, or S.I.O.P.

The second major concern was that a highly placed Soviet agent of the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence agency, operating as an American counterspy, would be compromised by continued inquiry by the special prosecutor and the Senate Watergate committee into the Ellsberg case. The agent informed his F.B.I. contacts that a set of the Pentagon papers had been delivered to the Soviet Embassy in Washington shortly after a Federal court had ordered The Times to stop print-

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EHRlichman SCORED ON ELLSBERG CHARGE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (UPI) An attorney for Dr. Daniel Ellsberg has chided the Senate Watergate committee for failing to challenge what he called "totally false and slanderous" testimony by the former White House aide, John D. Ehrlichman, suggesting that Dr. Ellsberg delivered copies of the Pentagon papers to the Soviet Embassy.