



The Fifty-fifth Annual

Conference on World Affairs

"The Power of an Idea"

Daniel Ellsberg Plenary Address

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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55th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS **ANNOUNCES DANIEL ELLSBERG PLENARY:**

"Can We Avoid Being Lied into Wars?"

(Boulder) – March 12, 2003 – Former U.S. Marine Commander and Pentagon official Daniel Ellsberg will challenge Government accountability, media responsibility and the obligations and duties of the American citizenry as examines the question, "Can We Avoid Being Lied into Wars?" The Conference on World Affairs plenary address will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2003 in Macky Auditorium on the University of Colorado's Boulder campus. As always, CWA events are free and open to the public.

Daniel Ellsberg began his career as the coldest of Cold Warriors—a U.S. Marine Company Commander, a Pentagon official, an analyst at the Rand Corporation and a staunch supporter of America's battle against Communist expansion. In October of 1969, he began smuggling out of his office and xeroxing a seven-thousand page, top-secret study of U.S. decision making in Vietnam. In revealing the "Pentagon Papers" to the American public, Ellsberg set in motion events that eventually toppled a Presidency and ended a war. His recent book, **SECRETS: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers** (Viking; 2002) tells the story.

A frequent visitor to Colorado in the late 70's and early 80's, Ellsberg blocked rail and road access to the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons plant between Boulder and Golden along with hundreds of other activists. In December 2002 he was arrested—along with over 100 religious leaders of numerous denominations and faiths—for protesting the impending war with Iraq in front of the U.S. Mission to the UN.

Every year in April approximately 100 participants representing a wide range of backgrounds gather on the University of Colorado's Boulder campus for the Conference on World Affairs. The *New York Times* refers to the CWA as "a week-long extravaganza

of discussion and debate" with over 200 non-academic, cross-disciplinary panels, plenary sessions and performances attended by a audience of about 40,000.

For further information, feel free to contact Ramsay Thurber at 303.492.2526, or e-mail the Conference on World Affairs at cwa@colorado.edu . The full CWA schedule will be posted on the Conference web site by March 23: www.colorado.edu/cwa .

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