

Ray McGovern on Daniel Ellsberg and Consortium News

It is sobering to think that Dan Ellsberg, and other serious thinkers, look to **Consortium News** for professional journalism and analysis, says Ray McGovern.

From the desk of Ray McGovern:

Dan Ellsberg met me at the entrance to the Berkeley theater a half-hour before the Berkeley premier of *The Most Dangerous Man in America* in 2009. As we compared notes on a couple of the main issues of the day, he made a point of asking me, twice, to pass along to Bob Parry, the late founder and editor of this site, his thanks for **Consortium News**. When Dan turned to go up on stage to introduce the documentary, he dropped a manila folder crammed full of papers. Bending down to pick them up, he whispered, “Ray, these are recent **Consortium News** articles. I print out the ones I want to go back and read again; these are from the last couple of weeks.”

I was reminded of this last week when I spent several hours with Dan on the West Coast. He was as sharp and inquiring as ever; this time, though, there was a lightness in his step missing in previous years. No longer hanging around his neck is the albatross of an unfinished life’s work – Dan’s *crie de coeur*. The albatross flew off last December when Bloomsbury published *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*. **Consortium** [published](#) an [excerpt](#) earlier this year.

With unparalleled experience and insight, Dan warns of the danger of “near-term extinction” resulting from our own “inventions and proclivities.” It is sobering to think that Dan, and other serious thinkers, look to **Consortium News** for professional journalism and analysis on how acute that danger is today. I see in this a solemn charge for us to keep on keeping’ on.

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Ray McGovern works with Tell the Word, a publishing arm of the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in inner-city Washington. He was an Army officer and a CIA presidential briefer, and is co-founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS).
