

General Calls Papers 'Sensitive'

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LOS ANGELES, April 24— Disclosure of some portions of the Pentagon Papers may have helped the Chinese in focusing their intelligence-gathering apparatus, a retired Marine Corps general told a federal court jury here today.

Victor H. Krulak, testifying as a prosecution rebuttal witness in the Pentagon Papers trial, said that U.S. military contingency plans for Southeast Asia referred to in the documents were still sensitive in 1969, when Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr. photocopied the papers.

Defense witnesses, including Rep. Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey (R-Calif.), have testified that the contingency plans were obsolete in 1969, because the proposal they discussed—the landing of Marines at Danang, South Vietnam—had already occurred in 1965.

Krulak also insisted that "Operation Silver Lance," a war game in which McCloskey participated as a Marine reserve officer before his election to Congress, was not intended as a rehearsal for the Danang landing, despite obvious parallels between the two.

McCloskey's involvement with the "Silver Lance" exercise was used by the defense as one of his qualifications to appear as an expert witness on behalf of Ellsberg and Russo, who are charged with conspiracy, espionage and theft of government property.

The retired general, now an executive of the Copley newspaper chain based in San Diego, was reluctant to give many details of his work in connection with the Vietnam

war during cross-examination by defense attorneys.

He said that in the early 1960s he was special assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for "counter-insurgency and special activities," for example, but declined to define "special activities" on the grounds that they were "classified."

Krulak did acknowledge to Leonard I. Weinglass, Russo's attorney, that he once drew up a plan for a secret "destructive raid" against North Vietnam, but denied that he had drafted proposals for "psychological warfare."

Portions of the published Pentagon Papers indicate that Krulak was assigned by former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara to develop a pro-

gram of "sabotage and psychological operations" against the north, but the defense was unable to introduce the material into evidence because those portions are not covered by the indictment against Ellsberg and Russo.

The defense sought to discredit Krulak by showing that he has close ties to the Nixon administration and that the Copley newspapers have published editorials sharply critical of Ellsberg and the publication of the Pentagon Papers.

Krulak acknowledged that he had a part in an editorial which attacked the "purling" of the documents.

He also admitted that he was the author of columns in The San Diego Union signed "John J. O'Malley" which urged that those who "stole" and "received" the documents be criminally prosecuted by the federal government.

Also testifying today was an FBI agent who recalled that Morton H. Halperin, a former

Pentagon official and a consultant to Ellsberg and Russo in this case, told him in an October, 1971, interview that he had been "reluctant" to grant Ellsberg access to the Pentagon Papers two years earlier.

The agent, Earl C. Bevels, said that Halperin talked of a fear that Ellsberg might be "indiscreet" with the documents.

Bevels also said Halperin had told him he was acting as a "U.S. government official" in 1969 when he sent a copy of the documents to the Rand Corp. for storage. Halperin has testified here that he considered the papers to be his "private property," rather than that of the government.

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