

Analyst Downgrades Viet Papers

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LOS ANGELES, March 14 (AP) — A consultant to Henry Kissinger testified today that the Pentagon papers had no intelligence value to the North Vietnamese or any foreign enemy by the time Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo Jr. copied the secret documents.

The testimony of Allen S. Whiting came as a surprise denunciation of opinions expressed by the government's key trial witness, Brig. Gen. Paul F. Gorman.

Whiting, who is also a consultant to the State Department, said he studied every passage in the 18 volumes, which were cited by Gorman as sensitive and useful to an enemy.

"As an intelligence analyst," said Whiting, "I cannot find any way that these materials could have been of advantage to a foreign analyst operating against the United States in 1969 . . . I can see no way in which these materials could be used to injure the United States in 1969."

Whiting, a specialist in Chinese intelligence and a consultant to the government on Vietnam, also said it was obvious that some intelligence secrets in the volumes, cited by Gorman in his testimony, were purposely leaked to the United States by foreign governments.

Specifically, he said, he's sure Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin wanted U.S. officials to overhear a 1967 phone call he made from London to Communist party chief Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow. The phone call related Kosygin's belief that a settlement with Hanoi might be near.

"Because of the choice of his words," Whiting said of Kosygin, "it might be presumed that he assumed a tap was on his phone." He said Kosygin related exactly what he had promised to relate during a meeting that day with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

"I might assume as an intelligence analyst that he desired to be overheard to show his credibility," said Whiting. "It is not unusual for one government to want to be overheard by another government."

Gorman had said the revelation that Kosygin's phone call had been intercepted might have damaged U.S.-Soviet relations and reflected badly on the British, who presumably did the intercepting. But Whiting said that if the

phone call was made, as it is said to have been, through the switchboard at London's Claridge Hotel, "I could only interpret that as an intended attempt to be overheard."

He said governments frequently allow themselves to

be monitored by another country as "a means of communication."

Ellsberg and Russo are charged with espionage, conspiracy and theft of government property. Although the papers were not released to

news media until 1971, the charges in the trial deal with 1969, the period when the defendants admittedly copied them. The government contends the two endangered national defense by copying such sensitive papers.