

MAR 29 1972

Prosecution Closes In Berrigan Case

Harrisburg, Pa.

The government closed its case yesterday against the Rev. Philip F. Berrigan and six other anti-war activists, pinning its hopes for conviction on a series of letters exchanged by the priest and a nun.

William Connelly, summing up the prosecution's case against the seven, argued that the letters were clear proof of a plot to kidnap presidential aide Henry A. Kissinger, blow up heating tunnels in Washington and raid draft boards in nine states.

Connelly said the letters between Father Berrigan

and Sister Elizabeth McAlister showed "the chronicle of these activities that were the evolution of this conspiracy — escalation, escalation, escalation."

Connelly characterized Father Berrigan as a "radical" who directed the anti-war movement from his prison cell in the Lewisburg federal penitentiary during 1970.

The defense had argued that FBI informer Boyd F. Douglas, the government's key witness, gave Father Berrigan his only contact with the outside world by smuggling letters into and out of the prison.

United Press