

# PENTAGON PAPERS SHOWN TO JURORS

Slides Used in Courtroom as  
Expert Witness Testifies

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LOS ANGELES, Jan. 24—The courtroom atmosphere in the Pentagon papers trial continued today to be as much school-room as courtroom, with the Government contending again that disclosure of the papers could have been "of use to a foreign nation."

For example, numerous slides of pages from the top secret Pentagon study of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam war were continually flashed on a large screen set up in the courtroom, in much the same manner that slides are used for, say, geography lessons.

More important, perhaps, is the fact that the current prosecution witness, Brig. Gen. Paul F. Gorman, is an expert witness and thus is given much leeway in his manner of testifying.

The general, a former combat leader in Vietnam and the top military man on the Defense Department task force that put together the Pentagon papers, also served as a history professor at West Point. And his response to questions is delivered in a lecture-like manner — articulate, ordered, at great length, accompanied with skillful gestures of the hands to give meaning to his words.

## Lengthy Answers

Today, for example, his answers were timed variously at six minutes, five minutes, seven minutes and five minutes. Yesterday, he gave an answer so lengthy that he ended it with the words, "Thank you," as a teacher might end a lecture on the class syllabus.

General Gorman wore a dark gray, pinstripe suit today, with a button-down shirt. He faces the jurors—five of whom were taking notes today — when he talks, and his round face constantly breaks into smiles.

He looks more like a professor than a general, and he talks to the jury as a professor would talk to his students, using introductory phrases such as, "As we were discussing yesterday," "If you have it available, I'd like to turn back . . ." and, "I'd like to direct your attention to . . ."

The defense raises its objections, but Judge William Matthew Byrne Jr., who is conducting the trial at the Federal District Court here, usually allows General Gorman to testify in his own distinct manner.

## Simple Questions

The questions put to the general by David R. Nissen, the chief prosecutor, are few and simple. Would this volume of the Pentagon papers be of use to the North Vietnamese? Would that volume be of use?

The Government is trying to prove that Dr. Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr., the defendants, committed 15 acts of espionage, theft and conspiracy in connection with the Pentagon papers. To prove the espionage counts, the prosecution must prove that the nation's national defense was injured by their alleged actions.

Today, General Gorman started talking about a section in the Pentagon papers entitled "The Overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem." Mr. Diem was Premier of South Vietnam in 1954-55 and was President from 1955 to 1963, when he was killed during the overthrow of his Government that occurred with the complicity of the United States Government.

How does this information, made public by the Pentagon papers, affect the national defense of the United States?

## 'Identify the Roles'

"First, it would identify the roles played by specific South Vietnamese individuals in the death of Diem, which would be significant in 1969 [the time of the alleged wrongdoing by the defendants] because it could be used to identify some of those figures who are still in South Vietnam politics," was one of the general's answers.

Another was that it showed very precisely the workings of the Central Intelligence Agency in South Vietnam, he continued, "just how well the United States formed its intelligence in Vietnam."

When the defense makes its presentation, it will try to show that, as military secrets, the information contained in the Pentagon papers was, at best, outdated, and therefore was not relevant, and that much of it had already appeared in newspaper articles and books. The defense will also try to show that it was not military secrets that the Government was attempting to protect, but political secrets that should have been made known to the American people.

Tomorrow, the court will remain in recess for former President Lyndon B. Johnson's funeral. Testimony will continue Friday morning.