

# Ellsberg Defense Hits General's Testimony

San Francisco Chronicle 39  
★★★ Tues., Feb. 6, 1973

## Los Angeles

The defense at the Pentagon papers trial sought yesterday to discredit the testimony of an Army general who had told the jury that release of the documents could have endangered American Security.

Brigadier General Paul F. Gorman, described by the defense as the "most damaging" witness yet called by the government, was cross-examined as the trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo reconvened after a week's delay.

Gorman had said in direct testimony that information from the Pentagon papers in the hands of a foreign analyst could have damaged U.S. intelligence operations and in some circumstances hurt chances of getting peace in Vietnam as far back as 1969.

Gorman had mentioned one specific disclosure in the papers about the trip of a Canadian diplomat seeking to make contact with the North Vietnamese. He said it would have compromised subsequent peace efforts because the Communists were sensitive about having their

secret diplomacy made known.

Defense lawyer Leonard Boudin asked Gorman if he considered the late president Lyndon B. Johnson an expert in international affairs.

"Yes, of course," Gorman replied.

Boudin then produced a copy of Johnson's 1971 book, "Vantage Point," and disclosed that the President in that volume had written about the same secret mis-

sion of the Canadian diplomat.

The defense lawyer attempted to bring out that Mr. Johnson apparently had not felt that disclosure of the mission would harm national security or defense.

But when Boudin asked Gorman to make a comparison of the validity of his judgment with that of a president, the prosecution objected and was upheld by the court.

*Associated Press*