

Ellsberg Trial Told Public Data Could Aid Foreign Intelligence

By MARTIN ARNOLD

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Feb. —The major prosecution witness in the Pentagon papers trial said today that, as far as he was concerned, a geography book, public opinion polls and transcripts of Congressional hearings—all public information—could be helpful to foreign intelligence analysts.

The witness, Brig. Gen. Paul F. Gorman, made his statement under cross-examination by Leonard I. Weinglass, a defense attorney.

The defendants in the trial, Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr., are accused of espionage, theft and conspiracy.

Message Shown to Witness

Mr. Weinglass also elicited from the general the information that about 200,000 United States Government employes were privy to top secret information.

At one point during today's cross-examination, the general was shown an "execute message" from the Joint Chiefs of Staff dated Nov. 10, 1966. It was an extract from the Pentagon papers, and General Gorman had previously testified that its disclosure even as late as 1969 would damage the national defense.

The "execute message" authorized the Air Force and air-

craft carrier planes to carry out bombing attacks on a series of North Vietnamese targets.

Mr. Weinglass then showed the general a report by Adm. Ulysses S. Grant Sharp Jr., commander in chief of the Pacific forces in 1965-1968. The report, written in 1968 and made public in 1969, had more detail about the same "execute message" than the Pentagon papers had.

General Gorman said that Admiral Sharp's report could have been "useful" to foreign intelligence but would not have been an "advantage" to a foreign nation. On such distinction his cross-examination ended.