

# HAIG IS A WITNESS

## IN ELLSBERG CASE

~~RENT PAPERS~~

General, an Aide to Nixon,  
Called by Government—

Appearance a Surprise

NYTimes APR 26 1973

By MARTIN ARNOLD

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, April 25—

Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., vice chief of staff of the Army and President Nixon's top military troubleshooter, testified today as a surprise Government witness in the Pentagon papers trial.

He was not asked one question about the Pentagon papers or about the two men who had copied them, Dr. Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo, Jr.

His appearance here was apparently approved by the White House, and it was taken as an indication of the importance that the Administration still attaches to this case. General Haig said that he had conferred on Monday with Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser, about his testimony.

### Earlier Testimony Recalled

He was the first military man to enter this courtroom in full uniform during the 78 days of the trial—the four silver stars glittering on his shoulders, the eight rows of campaign and honor ribbons providing a colorful splash over his heart.

And he was also the first military witness not to testify on the six espionage counts against Dr. Ellsberg and Mr. Russo. In all, he was on the witness stand for only 35 minutes and for the purpose of impeaching the expertise of two previous defense witnesses.

One of those witnesses was

Continued on Page 18, Column 1



Associated Press

Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. leaving court in Los Angeles after testifying in the Pentagon papers case.

#### Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

Dr. Allen S. Whiting, now of the University of Michigan, who from 1962 to 1966 was director of the Office of Research and Analysis for the Far East in the State Department and who had testified that subsequently he was a consultant to Mr. Kissinger.

The other was Morton H. Halperin, a former Defense Department official, a former senior staff member of the National Security Council and a defense consultant in this case.

Dr. Whiting had testified that the disclosure of the Pentagon papers had not damaged the national defense, but General Haig was never asked that question. Instead, he said that in all his years with Mr. Kissinger, Dr. Whiting and Mr. Kissinger had conferred only two or three times, and those conferences were not about the war in Vietnam but about "the political situation in Communist China.

The general described Mr. Kissinger's talks with Dr. Whiting this way:

"Dr. Kissinger makes a habit of cross-fertilizing professional sources in the Government itself with special experts from academia, think tanks and other sources so as to not totally depend on the bureaucracy itself."

He described Mr. Halperin's role in the National Security Council as that of a "transmission belt" between the council and various Government agencies and said that Mr. Halperin was "one of eight or nine" such staff members who had performed similar duties. That was the extent of his testimony.

#### Declines to Comment

The general then stepped off the witness stand, said, "I've got to get my helmet" and went to the United States Attorney's office on the 13th floor.

He declined to comment after his testimony, refusing to say whether he had ever read the Pentagon papers. He did say, however, that he had appeared at today the request of the prosecutor.

Court observers felt that he had been called more for the dazzle of his appearance and background than for the substance of his testimony, and he did make the spectators and jury sit up and take notice.

He marched into the courtroom at precisely 9:30 A.M. accompanied by an aide, an Army major who was also in uniform. They sat down directly behind the prosecutor. Dr. Ellsberg walked over and shook the general's hand and said, "Hi, how are you? What brings you here?"

The general, looking startled, did not answer.

In September, 1970, Dr. Ellsberg interrupted his honeymoon to go to San Clemente, the Western White House, to meet with Mr. Kissinger. Instead he had lunch with the general.

Dr. Ellsberg's greeting today was in sharp contrast to Mr. Russo's later encounter with the general. When the general walked from the building to his car, Mr. Russo followed him, trying to thrust a book, "The Credibility Gap," into his hand.

"You don't need that," the

general's aide said to him as the book fell to the ground.

"Hey, general, hey, don't you want your book?—you're part of the book, it involves you, General Haig, you genocidal warrior," Mr. Russo said. The general ignored him.

As General Haig stepped into the car, Mr. Russo said, "General, you got away again."

When he was on the witness stand, the general, 48 years old, gave his credentials and said that from June, 1970, to January, 1973, he was "deputy assistant to the President" and Mr. Kissinger's "alter ego."

He did not say that he joined the White House staff in January, 1969, as a colonel and in four years rose to four star general, nor that he was known in Washington as "Kissinger's Kissinger."

He did say that he had a White House office adjacent to Mr. Kissinger's, and that as part of his duties he prepared the daily intelligence briefing for President Nixon.

He flew here from Kansas, where he had delivered a lecture at Kansas State University, and was on his way to Washington, his aide said. Previously, he had made a fact-finding tour of Southeast Asia for Mr. Nixon.

There were several other Government rebuttal witnesses. They were Charles C. Coy, a Rand Corporation accountant and Richard H. Best, chief of security for Rand. Mr. Best had testified twice previously in this trial.

Dr. Ellsberg is accused of stealing the Pentagon Papers from Rand and with Mr. Russo of Xeroxing them. The two men are also standing trial on six counts of conspiracy.

United States District Court Judge William Matthew Byrne Jr. today ordered turned over to him all interviews conducted by Air Force investigating teams of Rand personnel after the papers were first disclosed in the New York Times on June 13, 1971.