

An Admiral Testifies For Ellsberg

Los Angeles

A retired Navy admiral testified yesterday that a section of the Pentagon papers on which the government based espionage charges was "hopelessly out of date and utterly useless" by the time Daniel Ellsberg removed it from the files in 1969.

Rear Admiral Gene Larocque, who retired last year after 31 years in the service, told the jury the document would not have been of value to a foreign power or harmed U.S. interests.

The testimony by Larocque, now head of the private Center for Defense Information in Washington, D.C., was interrupted until today pending defense submission to the prosecution of all exhibits to be used in the case.

The admiral was called by attorneys for Ellsberg and Anthony Russo to rebut the testimony of two Army generals — Major General William Deputy and Brigadier General Paul F. Gorman.

Deputy and Gorman had said sections of the Pentagon papers definitely jeopardized American security. They singled out certain specific memoranda and reports.

One such document was entitled "OP 32-64." Larocque said it referred to the U.S. operational plan for reaction to Communist moves in Southeast Asia in the year 1964. It provided alternative actions if the North Vietnamese and China moved into South Vietnam that year.

Larocque said that actually North Vietnam did invade South Vietnam that year but the Chinese did not come into action.

"Would that information have been of use to a foreign power in 1969?" asked defense lawyer Leonard Weinglass.

"It was hopelessly out of date and utterly useless to a foreign power in 1969," Larocque said. *United Press*