

More Ellsberg Rebuttal

Los Angeles

A former Marine general who is now a news executive testified against Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo yesterday, saying a segment of the Pentagon Papers could have aided the Communist Chinese when the defendants copied it.

Retired Lieutenant General Victor Krulak's government testimony contradicted that of a defense witness, Representative Paul N. McCloskey (Rep-Calif.).

Krulak, who is director of editorial and news policies for the Copley newspaper group and was a Marine for 34 years, differed strongly with McCloskey's testimony that a volume of the Pentagon papers detailing the 1965 Marine landing at Da Nang was long out of date and useless to an enemy when Ellsberg and Russo copied it in 1969.

OVERT

Krulak said the volume told more than just what happened at Da Nang. He

said it revealed that the landing was just the first phase of a contingency plan which anticipated possible reactions to an "overt" act by the Red Chinese in Vietnam.

Krulak spent most of his direct testimony disputing McCloskey's description of an elaborate military exercise which Krulak commanded.

The exercise around Camp Pendleton, Calif., in 1964 concerned possible U.S. "counter - insurgency" attacks in a small country threatened by Communist takeover by a bordering country.

ROLE

McCloskey, a Marine reserve officer, had said this was a rehearsal for the landing at Da Nang in March 1965 and testified he played the role of the then-ambassador to South Vietnam, Henry Cabot Lodge.

Krulak said the exercise could have concerned any of numerous countries, including Colombia and Venezuela.

But he conceded that mythical countries he created for the exercise, Operation Silverlance, bore some resemblance to those in Southeast Asia.

McCloskey had contended that thousands of Marines participating in the exercise were using plans identical to those for the Da Nang landing.

Ellsberg, 42, and Russo, 36, are charged with espionage, conspiracy and theft for copying a part of the Pentagon study of the Vietnam war.

FBI

Krulak was followed to the witness stand by FBI agent

Earl bevels, who said he interviewed defense witness Morton Halperin in 1971 and obtained different answers than those Halperin gave on the witness stand.

Official who directed the Penwgm Papers study — told him he and another official were hesitant to give Ellsberg access to the papers.

Associated Press