

Ellsberg Court Hears Nixon Aide

Los Angeles

General Alexander Haig Jr., top military assistant to President Nixon, testified for the prosecution at the Pentagon Papers trial yesterday.

Afterwards he was followed from the courthouse by a yelling Anthony Russo, who called him a "genocidal warrior."

The four-star general downgraded the role played in the government by two key defense witnesses, Allen S. Whiting, former intelligence analyst in the State Department, and Morton Halperin, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense.

FULL UNIFORM

His appearance was taken as an indication of the importance the Nixon administration attaches to the case. Haig was the first military man in the trial to enter the courtroom in full uniform — four silver stars on his shoulders and eight rows of campaign ribbons on his chest.

Court observers felt that he had been called more for the dazzle of his appearance and background than for the substance of his testimony. The New York Times reported. And indeed, The Times said, he did make the spectators and jury sit up and take notice.

Haig was on the witness stand only briefly, and when he walked out through the corridor, Russo, codefendant with Daniel Ellsberg, was waiting for him.

Russo thrust a digest of the Pentagon Papers titled "Credibility Gap" into the surprised general's hands. Haig did not appear to know who Russo was. A major serving as Haig's aide threw it to the floor.

YELL

Russo followed the general out onto the steps of the building and to his waiting car yelling, "Hey, general,



AP Wirephoto

GEN. ALEXANDER HAIG
He downgraded witnesses

don't you want to read the Pentagon Papers?"

"Genocidal warrior," he yelled. "Head of CIA operations."

Haig, who recently returned from a Presidential assignment to study the post-ceasefire situation in Southeast Asia, told the jury the official stature of two key defense witnesses had been exaggerated.

Both Whiting and Halperin had testified that disclosure of information in the Pentagon Papers would not have helped an enemy power or harmed the U.S.

Whiting had said he was an adviser to Henry Kissinger as a defense analyst in 1969. Haig at that time was Kissinger's military assistant.

CONTRIBUTION

Haig said Whiting actually had spoken with Kissinger only three or four times. The general said he talked with Kissinger on Monday morning about Whiting, and Kissinger told him Whiting had made a "slight, if any," contribution about the political situation in Mainland China.

Halperin had told the jury he was attached in 1969 to the National Security Council, the top-level agency on U.S. defense policy.

Haig said Halperin was one of eight senior staff members working for the NSC but in no way was responsible for the functioning of that agency.

United Press