

# A General's Pentagon Papers View

Los Angeles

An Army general testified at the Pentagon papers trial yesterday that he would have "disregarded" the opinion of an intelligence analyst that release of the documents could not have endangered national security.

The defense for Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo introduced a study by William Gerhard, an employee of the National Security Agency assigned to the Defense Department to make a study of the impact of release of the papers.

Gerhard reached the conclusion that contents of a number of the volumes leaked to the press by Ellsberg would not have damaged American interests.

Brigadier General Paul F. Gorman was asked whether he might have altered his own testimony that release could have endangered security if he had been shown Gerhard's studies before he took the witness stand.

Gorman said it would not have changed his opinion.

Defense lawyer Leonard Weinglass brought out that Gorman had not been shown the Gerhard study before he testified on direct examination, although it was in the possession of prosecutor David Nissen.

It was turned over to the defense on court orders last week.

"If Mr. Nissen had given it to you, would you have read it?" Weinglass asked.

"Yes, I would have read it," Gorman replied.

"Would you have taken it into consideration in forming your opinion?"

"No."

"You would have just disregarded it?"

"This piece of paper?" Gorman answered, dropping the typed document scornfully. "Yes, I would have just disregarded it."

Gorman said that Gerhard was competent in intelligence communication but was not a man he would "seek out" on other subjects.

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