

Pentagon Gives Point To Ellsberg

Los Angeles

A Government witness at the Pentagon papers trial conceded yesterday that information contained in reports made public by top military commanders could have been of advantage to a foreign power.

Brigadier General Paul F. Gorman testified, however, that these reports would not have had the same value as the disclosures in the secret documents removed from the files by Daniel Ellsberg.

In a fifth straight day of cross-examination, Gorman was given a report on American military operations in Vietnam prepared in 1968 by General William Westmoreland and Admiral U.S.G. Sharp, the U.S. commander in chief in the Pacific.

Defense lawyer Leonard Weinglass brought out that Admiral Sharp revealed information about American Air strikes in Vietnam in 1966 — information that was markedly similar to one of the sections of the Pentagon Papers that Gorman had said could have damaged national security.

Weinglass asked Gorman if the information in Sharp's report could not have been useful to a foreign analyst.

"It could possibly have been used to the advantage of a foreign power," Gorman said.

Daniel Ellsberg, 41, and Anthony Russo, 36, are charged with espionage, conspiracy and theft in connection with the leak to news media of the Pentagon's secret history of the Vietnam war.

Weinglass, in a series of rapid-fire questions, pounded away at Gorman's constant use of the words "could be of use to a foreign analyst" in relation to the Pentagon papers. He tried to prove that this didn't mean the data harmed national defense.

U.P. & A.P.