

# Ellsberg

## Testimony

### Disputed

LOS ANGELES — (UPI) — Retiree Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Victor Krulak has testified for the prosecution in the Pentagon Papers trial, disputing testimony for the defense by Rep. Paul N. McCloskey (R-Calif.).

At issue was whether a Marine Corps exercise in which both men took part would have provided valuable intelligence to the Communist Chinese.

#### McCloskey

McCloskey, testifying earlier on behalf of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo, said the Marines' "Operation Silver Lance" in 1964 was a dress rehearsal for the Da Nang landings in 1965.

The Congressmen said the huge landings in Southern California would have revealed to Chinese planners then that Da Nang was considered a vital port for deployment of U.S. troops in the northern sector of South Vietnam, so they would not have learned anything new from the Pentagon Papers.

Krulak testified that he wrote the script for the operation, in which McCloskey took part as a reserve lieutenant colonel.

"Silver Lance" involved Marine units rushing to the aid of a nation known as "Lancelot," bordered by "Neutralia" and endangered by Communist aggressors, "Mordred" and "Merlin."

McCloskey said "Lancelot" was obviously South Vietnam.

#### Other Places

That is not true, Krulak testified. He said the landings were a rehearsal for possible Marine counterinsurgency operations in a number of places — Southeast Asia, but also Latin America, where there could be Cuban-backed enemies.

One volume of the papers made "specific reference to a specific contingency plan, should there be overt Red Chinese participation in the Vietnam war," Krulak said.

Only one phase of U.S. plans had been carried out by the Da Nang landings, he said.

The material in the papers thus "could have greatly added to their (Chinese) intelligence," Krulak said.