

'FBI Knew of Ellsberg Copying'

Washington

Daniel Ellsberg said yesterday that the FBI knew he was copying top-secret government documents a full year before he released the Pentagon Papers.

Ellsberg, who arrived in Washington for an appearance before a Senate subcommittee today, said the FBI went to Rand Corp. where he worked, in 1970 and told officials he was copying documents.

Ellsberg leaked the study to the news media in June 1971. He subsequently was indicted on charges ranging from espionage to misuse of government property.

His trial ended last Friday when U. S. District Judge Matt Byrne threw out the charges after a series of dis-

closures of government misconduct which the judge called offensive to a sense of justice.

Ellsberg said Rand officials declined to take any action against him after being told that he was copying documents.

He said it was assumed at the time that he was showing portions of the top secret study to members of Congress and that Rand officials assumed they could see them.

Asked why he though he was permitted to continue copying documents and ultimately release the study, Ellsberg replied:

"Because as they knew and as their experts told them in the course of the trial, it didn't jeopardize national security."

Associated Press