U.S. Denies Wiretapping In Spy Case

There was a mail cover but no wiretapping in the Federal investigation for the espionage conspiracy case against Herbert W. Boeckenhaupt, the Justice Department says.

Acknowledgement of keeping records on the Air Force sergeant's mail and the denial of bugging were contained in a brief filed Monday in reply to motions by Boekenhaupt's court-appointed lawyers.

He was arrested last October and indicted in December for conspiring to deliver secret information on Air Force communications and codes to the Soviet Union. A Russian embassy official has since been expelled.

Federal Judge Oren R. Lewis has scheduled a hearing for March 22 as a preliminary to the trial itself, set for May 22.

Boeckenhaupt is in D.C. Jail, in lieu of $50,00 bond. He was stationed at the Pentagon in 1965 and part of last year.

"A mail cover was maintained for a period of time agaist the defendant," the Justice Department's brief said. Internal Security division chief trial attorney Paul Vincent declined to say how long.