

Spy Trial Told of Soviet Payments

LOS ANGELES, April 26 (AP)—A college student on trial for espionage said today that he was given money in the basement of the Soviet embassy in Mexico City to steal U.S. secrets.

Christopher Boyce, testifying in his own defense, described a late-night meeting with Soviet agents in the streets of Mexico City, then a wild drive in a chauffeured car to the gates of the embassy.

Inside, he said, he and his co-defendant, Andrew Daulton Lee, drank with the Soviets and were asked to steal top-secret communications frequencies that would allow the Soviets to break secret codes and infiltrate the U.S. covert communications system.

"They asked me a lot of questions," Boyce recalled. "They wanted names of people at work. I wouldn't give

them any. They wanted the frequencies . . ."

The 23-year-old Boyce worked as a documents clerk in the top-secret communications room at TRW Systems Inc., a defense contractor in nearby Redondo Beach that did work for the Central Intelligence Agency.

He said security at TRW was "a joke" with drinking parties in the security vault and a marijuana plant openly displayed.

However, throughout his testimony, he insisted that he tried to give the Soviets only material he thought was outdated and useless.

"The ciphers were useless without the frequencies," he told jurors.

He said he could not have stolen the frequencies even if he had wanted to because they were in the custody of Western Union.

Boyce insisted he was duped into es-

plionage by his co-defendant, Lee, whom he described as a heroin addict.

Lee is scheduled to stand trial after the Boyce case is completed.

Boyce admitted that he photographed a series of top-secret documents, detailing the Pyramider Project, which the government alleges endangered national defense. But Boyce said he chose it because he knew "it was a dead project."

He said that he had become disillusioned after he learned of "violations of law perpetrated against the Australians." He said he was sitting around with Lee drinking and discussing Watergate, President Nixon and the downfall of the Chilean government when he told Lee about the Australian incident.

He was not permitted to testify about the details of the charges about Australia.