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AIR FORCE JUDGE WEIGHS SPY CASE

He Adjourns Court After Nearly 4 Hours of Study

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla., Aug. 10 (AP)—Col. Joe E. Peck, a military judge, locked himself in a small courtroom today and began deliberating charges that M. Sgt. Walter T. Perkins had tried to smuggle national defense secrets to Soviet spies in Mexico City.

At 4:55 P.M., after 3 hours 45 minutes of deliberation, he called attorneys and the defendant before him and said, "Gentlemen, I have not concluded my deliberations." He adjourned court until 9 A.M. tomorrow.

Colonel Peck was appointed to hear the case after Sergeant Perkins had waived his right to a trial by military jury. Sergeant Perkins, 37 years old and the father of four, was the highest-ranking noncommissioned officer in the intelligence unit of the Air Defense Weapons Center at this northwest Florida base.

Closing arguments this morning ended a week of testimony during which members of the Air Force's Office of Special Investigation testified that Sergeant Perkins was on his way to deliver five secret documents to Soviet agents in Mexico City when he was arrested last Oct. 18 at the commercial airport at nearby Panama City.

Sergeant Perkins pleaded not guilty to all charges by reason of temporary insanity caused by acute alcoholism.

Lieut. Col. Skyler Crowell, head of the weapons center and Sergeant Perkins's commanding officer, said that documents found in the sergeant's attaché case at the time of his arrest were crucial to national defense.

He said that the documents involved the United States' radar detection system and intelligence data on Russian and Eastern European missile systems. He said that Sergeant Perkins, who had access to all classified information at Tyndall, had been instructed to destroy the documents Sept. 10.

The defense attempted to prove that Sergeant Perkins's ability to distinguish right from wrong had been affected by chronic alcoholism. It cited the testimony of three psychiatrists and Sergeant Perkins's Japanese-born wife, Michiko, who said that her husband drank a fifth of whisky a day and beat their children when drunk.

A defense attorney, Henry Rothblatt of New York, said that Sergeant Perkins had thought he could engineer the release of three American prisoners of war by turning the documents over to the Russians.

Sergeant Perkins is a 20-year Air Force veteran, served in both Korea and Vietnam and holds a National Defense Serv-