

SALT Leak by CIA

New York

A strategic analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency was forced to resign last summer after confessing that he had supplied copies of top-secret CIA reports on Strategic Arms Limitation Talks to a key staff aide of Senator Henry M. Jackson, a leading Senate critic of the current arms negotiations, administration and intelligence sources said.

The analyst, David S. Sullivan, admitted passing the documents to Richard Perle, Jackson's aide for disarmament matters, after being ordered to take a lie detector test, the government sources said. Sullivan now is working as an adviser on the arms talks and other issues for Senator Lloyd Bentsen, (Dem-Tex.)

Admiral Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA was described as being outraged by Sullivan's "insubordination"—as one official put it—as well as the decision of Jackson, (Dem-Wash.), and Perle, who have high security clearances, to receive the working-level documents. The Sullivan materials included some of the governments most closely held information on sources and methods of obtaining information about the Soviet Union, government officials said.

In recent conversations, some officials involved in the arms limitation talks depicted Sullivan's act as an example of the kind of "hardball"—as one senior official said—that will be played next year over the pending ratification of a new arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union. Other officials saw the CIA's decision not to seek further sanctions against Sullivan, who recently was issued top-secret clearances by the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, as an example of a double standard on the part of the Carter administration in so-called "whistle-blowing" cases, in which government employees make public

what they consider to be wrongdoing or incompetence. The administration chose to file a civil suit against Frank Snepp, a former CIA employee with a liberal point of view who wrote a book on his experiences in Vietnam without CIA clearance.

Admiral Turner has met at least twice with Jackson since Sullivan left the agency last August 25, officials said, and urged him to dismiss Perle. "That's what we did on our end," one source quoted the admiral as telling the senator, in effect, "and that's what you should do on your end."

Jackson and Perle have apologized to Turner for their part in receiving the documents, which were returned to the CIA, the sources said.

Jackson could not be located for comment. Perle, reached yesterday at his home in Washington, refused to comment on his role. "I don't have anything to say," he said. "Frankly, I don't think there's much of a story."

One government official explained that Turner was unable to do more than dismiss Sullivan for insubordination and issue a subsequent letter of reprimand because no federal law had been violated by Sullivan.

The Sullivan affair is widely known among top disarmament officials in the Carter administration, who are now concluding negotiations with the Soviet Union on a new disarmament agreement. If such an agreement is reached by next year, a major debate is expected when the accord comes up for ratification by the Senate.

The documents passed by Sullivan were described as analyses he had made of Soviet intentions regarding the strategic arms negotiations. Sullivan, who has told friends he worked four years on the papers, received permission last month from the CIA to publish an unclassified version of his research. In one such

paper, to be published in the Winter, 1978, edition of the magazine Strategic Review, Sullivan argues that "the Soviets have used the SALT negotiations process as a smokescreen behind which to conceal their increasing strategic superiority from a complacent U.S."

Sullivan further says that the United States, nuclear arsenal has been losing ground strategically to the Soviet Union since 1963.

This retreat, he said, was sanctioned in the arms limitation agreement in 1972

Ex-Aide

negotiated by President Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger, Nixon's national security adviser.

Friends of Sullivan said that the former CIA analyst is convinced that the classified materials he supplied to Jackson and Perle contained proof—as gleaned from highly classified sources—that the Soviet Union deceived the United States during the 1972 negotiations and is continuing its deception.

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