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The Justice Department has issued an unprecedented subpoena for the banking records of the South Korean Embassy and every member of its diplomatic delegation here as part of the federal investigation of widespread corruption of U.S. congressmen by the South Korean government.

The subpoena to the Riggs Bank of Washington, where the South Korean Embassy does its banking, was issued in an attempt by investigators to trace how large amounts of cash were generated for gifts and campaign contributions to congressmen and other U.S. officials, according to sources close to the investigation.

The activities and records of foreign diplomats here are generally protected from legal scrutiny by diplomatic immunity, but Justice Department lawyers believe the subpoena of banking records is possible under a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last April that bank records belong to the banks holding them and not to their customers. If the Riggs banking records for the South Koreans belong to Riggs and not the South Koreans, the federal lawyers reasoned, diplomatic immunity cannot be claimed.

Negotiations between Riggs officials and lawyers for the U.S. and South Korean governments now under way, according to informed sources, could end either in compliance with the subpoena or a legal test of the federal lawyers' reasoning.

"This should show them we mean business," one Justice Department source said yesterday. "We're going to get to the bottom of this."

It was also learned yesterday that the State Department is considering making a request that the South Korean government remove from its embassy here several agents of the South Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA). Among the KCIA agents under scrutiny by the State Department, according to sources, are the KCIA sta-

See KOREANS, A12, Col. 1

U.S. Probes S. Koreans' Banking Data

U.S. Subpoenas Korean Bank

KOREANS, From A1

tion chief here, Kim Yung Hwan, who is officially listed as a minister in the embassy, and his deputy, Kim Sang Keun, who was recently promoted to counselor in the embassy.

Both men are suspected of having been involved in attempts to influence U.S. congressmen, according to sources close to the investigation.

A story in Sunday's editions of The Washington Post reported that federal investigators have information that a ring of South Korean agents directed personally by South Korean President Park Chung Hee dispensed between \$500,000 and \$1 million yearly in cash, gifts and campaign contributions to U.S. congressmen and officials during the 1970s to "create a favorable legislative climate" here for South Korea.

The ring's principal Washington-based operative, South Korean businessman Park Tong Sun, known here as Tongsun Park, has admitted to investigators and associates that he made substantial money payments to a number of congressmen and gave many others jewelry, silver trinkets, oriental antiques and vacation trips, as well as hundreds of dollars in cash casually doled out of his own pocket whenever a congressional friend needed it.

Yesterday, Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards admitted that his wife, Elaine, received \$10,000 in cash from Tongsun Park in 1971 when Edwards, then a Democratic congressman from Louisiana, was first running for governor.

Edwards said that because Tongsun Park had given the money to his wife as a gift during a private meeting Edwards did not know about the gift until 1974 when the Internal Revenue Service made an investigation of his income tax.

At a press conference in Baton Rouge, Gov. Edwards first said The Washington Post had erred in stating in its story Sunday that Edwards was among several present and former congressmen who had received money from Park.

The Post story reported that Tongsun Park had said he gave Edwards \$10,000 through a relative of Edwards.

Yesterday, under persistent questioning about The Post story, Edwards said a relative had received the \$10,000. Then, after asking reporters, "Would it make you feel better if I told you?" Edwards said the recipient was his wife.

Edwards said that Park, whom he already knew, visited him in a New Orleans hotel during the 1971 gubernatorial campaign. "Although he made no specific offer of a campaign contribution," Edwards said, "I got the indication that's what he was trying to do. At the time I was still a congressman. I told him, 'No.'"

Tongsun Park, according to Edwards, then "went downstairs and had coffee with (Edwards' wife) Elaine. In that conversation, he told her that 'Edwin doesn't want any help.' But he (Tongsun Park) gave her an envelope and said it was a gift strictly for her and the girls to use as they wanted."

The envelope contained \$10,000 in cash, which Edwards said he did not find out about until the IRS investigated him in 1974. The IRS made him pay \$5,000 in back taxes that was owed, Edwards said, because of a bookkeeping error.

Edwards said he would not have let his wife take the money in 1971, but that he saw nothing wrong with it when he found out about it in 1974. "I approved of it," he said, "I was pleased for them."

Edwards said that Tongsun Park was a friend of his family and had also given a \$50 smoky topaz ring to his daughter Vicki, and a \$900 table to the family. The table, Edwards said, is displayed in the governor's mansion

with a label saying where it came from.

The governor repeatedly said that he never accepted "one nickel" from an foreign agent or government himself and that he saw nothing "improper, illegal or immoral" about his family receiving gifts from friends.

"They (his wife and children) come and go pretty much on their own," Edwards said.

In August, 1972, Gov. Edwards appointed his wife to the U.S. Senate to serve out the unexpired term of Sen. Allen J. Ellender (D-La.) after Ellender's death. Mrs. Edwards served for a few months until another Democrat, J. Bennett Johnson Jr., was elected to the seat in November, 1972.

Edwards, who has known Tongsun Park since 1967, said earlier that he worked with Park to arrange a major sale of surplus Louisiana rice to South Korea in 1971, but he said that there was no connection between that deal and Park's campaign contribution offer or the \$10,000 gift to Edwards' wife.

The Post reported Sunday that, according to U.S. intelligence information known to federal investigators, South Korean President Park Chung Hee arranged to make Tongsun Park the principal intermediary between U.S. suppliers of federally financed grain and rice purchases by South Korea.

In a meeting at the South Korean "blue house" presidential mansion in Seoul in the late 1960s, according to U.S. intelligence reports, Tongsun Park agreed to use the large amounts of money he received in commissions from these grain and rice sales to finance lavish entertaining, gifts, cash payments and campaign contributions for U.S. lawmakers. The South Korean government was seeking to persuade the lawmakers to continue high levels of U.S. economic and military aid to Seoul.

Records

In addition to his accounts of casually giving oriental trinkets and furniture and small amounts to cash to uncounted U.S. congressmen, Tongsun Park had admitted to investigators that he made substantial payments to Rep. William S. Broomfield (R-Mich.) and former Reps. Corneilus Gallagher (D-N.J.) and Richard Hanna (D-Calif.), according to sources. Broomfield has denied receiving money from Tongsun Park. Gallagher and Hanna have not answered repeated attempts to obtain comment from them.

Federal investigators also are far along in probing allegations that Reps. Joseph P. Addabbo (D-N.Y.), Robert L. Leggett (D-Cal.) and Otto E. Passman (D-La.) have received cash or gifts from South Korean agents, according to sources.

Although the sources have said the overall investigation is still in its early stages, at least 15 other present and former congressmen are already under scrutiny.

In addition, Tongsun Park is alleged to have financed intelligence-gathering and lobbying activities here by KCIA agents, some of whom also are suspected of trying to influence congressmen with cash, gifts and female companionship.

While the State Department is considering what to do with the KCIA agents stationed here who are under scrutiny, the South Korean government also is reported to be considering voluntarily sending Kim Yung Hwan and Kim Sang Keun back to Korea. Because Kim Yung Hwan has completed his present tour of duty here and Kim Sang Keun has already had his tour extended, both could be sent home without serious diplomatic problems.

Kim Yung has also been accused of intimidating Korean residents here and American citizens of Korean descent to stifle criticism here of the Park Chung Hee regime in Seoul, according to government sources.

Kim Yung Hwan, officially the num-



Associated Press

Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards with wife, Elaine, following his 1975 re-election.

ber three man in the diplomatic hierarchy at the South Korean Embassy here, was identified by The Washington Post in February as the KCIA station chief here.

An Air Force major general, Kim was recruited into the KCIA and spent time at the United Nations before being transferred to Washington. He was brought here, one State Department official says, to "keep a low profile" because his predecessor had

been sent home under threat of expulsion in December, 1973.

The previous KCIA station chief, Yang Doo Hwan, who called himself Lee Song Ho while serving here was under threat of being declared persona non grata by the U.S. government at the time because of accusations that he also had threatened Korean nationals here. He is now the number three man in the KCIA in Seoul.