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U.S. Intercepted Seoul's Messages

The super-secret National Security Agency intercepted some fascinating communications between the South Korean government in Seoul and its embassy in Washington that outlined grandiose plans to influence Congress.

The incriminating transcripts are being reviewed by the Senate Intelligence Committee, which is conducting a secret inquiry into the government's strange failure to do anything about it.

Copies of the transcripts were distributed over the years to key Washington authorities, including officials of both the Justice Department and the White House. Yet for years the Korean lobbying effort was ignored by officials who could have intervened.

The intercepted messages do not criminally implicate any specific congressmen and do not mention Korean payoff man Tongsun Park by name. But Park's name was mentioned in classified State Department cables, which we obtained in early 1974.

Our investigation established that Park was engaged in political lobbying and that he had developed a close, curious relationship with then-Rep. Richard Hanna (D-Calif.)—a story we broke on April 1, 1974. The Justice Department has now indicted Park and named Hanna as an unindicted co-conspirator.

The 1974 cables showed that the State Department gave special treatment to Tongsun Park during his travels in the Middle East, probably because he was in the company of the congressman.

In a classified cable to U.S. embassies in the Middle East, the department requested "each post except Cairo" to ensconce Park "in a single room next to or near room reserved for" Con-

gressman Hanna. In Cairo, telegrammed State, "Mr. Park requests a suite on the [Nile] river side of the Hilton."

Not until the following year did the Justice Department begin to investigate the South Korean effort to compromise Congress, although the evidence had been gathering dust in its files for years. Then it took a private letter from Rep. Donald Fraser (D-Minn.) to then-Attorney General Edward Levi to get action. The congressman sent Levi a summary of testimony his House International Organizations Subcommittee had developed.

Finally on July 17, 1975, we were able to break the explosive story that "the Justice Department is quietly investigating charges that the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, modeled after our own embattled spy agency, has set up illegal front groups to manipulate U.S. public opinion and has even tried to 'buy off' U.S. congressmen."

More Bombings?—Sources close to the anti-Castro movement warn that Cuban extremists plan a rash of bombings early next week to protest the Panama Canal treaty. The targets are expected to be public structures, such as bridges in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Justice Department sources believe that the Cuban terrorist, Orlando Bosch, has participated in the plotting from his jail cell in Venezuela. He was clapped into jail on suspicion of bombing a Cuban airliner, causing 73 deaths.

He has also been linked to the dynamiting death of Chilean exile leader Orlando Letelier in Washington last September. According to secret Senate testimony, Bosch also intended to assassinate Secretary of State Henry A.

Kissinger during his February, 1976, visit to Costa Rica.

Shortly before Kissinger's arrival, Bosch slipped into Costa Rica on a false passport. But the FBI and Secret Service had been alerted. They traced Bosch's movements and notified the Costa Rican authorities. The suspected assassin was arrested and jailed before Kissinger got to town.

Months later, he was reported to be in Curacao, protected by Chilean gunmen. He bragged, according to the reports, of his "money, friends and protection." Intelligence sources report that the Chilean military junta used Bosch, thereafter, to bankroll the plot to dynamite Letelier. Bosch was chosen, our sources say, because he was fanatical and honest enough not to steal the murder money.

Now Bosch reportedly is involved in the plot to bomb New York and Washington sites next week. He reportedly is the "bag man" for the Coordination of United Revolutionary Organizations, which allegedly is behind the planned bombings. Members of one of its affiliated groups, the Pedro Luis Boitel Commando Group, are reported to be involved in the scheme.

By revealing the bombing plot in advance, a top Justice Department official told us, we might discourage the plotters from going ahead.

They are fired up against the Panama Canal treaty because of Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos' close ties with Cuban President Fidel Castro. Another reason for the bombings, our sources said, would be to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the imprisonment of the anti-Castro hero, Huber Matos.