

Security Expert Reports U.S. Can Break

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N. Y. Times News Service

Washington — The United States is reported to have refined its electronics intelligence techniques to the point where it can break Soviet codes, listen to and under-

stand Soviet communications and coding systems and keep track of virtually every Soviet jet plane or missile-carrying submarine around the world.

"We're able to break every code they've got," a former analyst in the National Security Agency, one of the most secret of the Government's many intelligence agencies, is quoted as saying in the August issue of Ramparts magazine, which is published by Noah's Ark, Inc., 2054 University Ave., Berkeley, Calif.

The former analyst, whose name was not given in the article, was an Air Force staff sergeant who was discharged from military service in 1969 after three years of overseas duty as a communications traffic analyst for the agency in Turkey, West Germany and Indochina. He uses the pseudonym of Winslow Peck in the article.

Some Corroboration

Peck, who is 25, was interviewed by a correspondent of The New York Times in California. Extensive independent checking in Washington with sources in and out of the government has corroborated many of his revelations. But experts denied that the United States had broken the sophisticated codes of the Soviet

Union or of other foreign powers.

National Security Agency headquarters is at Fort Meade, near Baltimore. It has nearly 100,000 employees — most of them military personnel — and spends slightly less than \$1 billion a year. Unlike the Central Intelligence Agency, NSA's primary purpose is collection of information, most of it through advanced technology. I rarely if ever, tries to evaluate the information.

Reds Ringed

The Ramparts article says that the United States has encircled the Communist world with at least 2,000 electronic listening posts on land or on naval vessels or aircraft.

United States electronically equipped aircraft, according to the article are constantly penetrating the air space of the Soviet Union, China and other Communist countries to provoke and record their radar signal techniques to develop countermeasures.

This claim has been challenged here by independent Government intelligence experts, who said that there have been no authorized, as distinct from inadvertent, violations of Soviet or Chinese

airspace by the United States since the U-2 flights of the early 1960s. The experts said that satellite photography has replaced aerial overflights, conceding, however, that United States electronic intelligence planes often fly along Communist borders to provoke reaction and collect signals.

Interview Taped

In the California interview, which was taped, Peck described his early life in Joplin, Mo., his enlistment in the Air Force in 1966 when he was 20 years old, his subsequent recruitment by the security agent, his specialized training, his promotions and his three years of duty overseas. He was discharged in California in November, 1969, and says he turned a \$10,000-a-year job offer by the Central Intelligence Agency. He decided instead, he says, to work to end the Vietnam war.

Peck's disclosures include a report that in 1967 during his duty in Turkey the agency monitored a live Soviet television contact between Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, who was in tears bidding an emotional farewell to the astronaut Vladimir M. Komarov.

Told He Would Die

Komarov was then in orbit in Soyuz 1, which was still two hours from reentry into the earth's atmosphere. According to Peck's account, the astronaut had just been informed by Soviet ground control that the braking parachutes designed to lower his spacecraft to earth were malfunctioning and that there was no hope of saving him.

Soyuz 1 crashed on Soviet territory on April 25, 1967, and Komarov was killed. He was posthumously granted a second Order of Hero of the Soviet Union and is buried in the Kremlin walls.

Peck also said that during

Any Russian Code

the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the United States' electronic intelligence ship Liberty was ordered near the Israeli coast to intercept details of Israeli military intentions.

Copy Ship Attack

The ship was attacked on June 8, 1967, by Israeli jet aircraft and torpedo boats — an incident that cost 34 United States dead and 75 wounded. Before the attack, he said, the Liberty learned that General Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Defense Minister, intended to order his forces on to Damascus and Cairo.

Peck stated that President Johnson then brought pressure on Israel to halt further troop movement and warned Premier Kosygin on the "hot line" against what appeared to be an imminent Soviet airborne operation from bases in Bulgaria against Israel.

Intelligence sources here said they were unable to re-

call these details but a veteran of 30 years service in intelligence said of Peck: "He's obviously familiar with NSA—its organization, operations and many of its techniques. / But no sergeant in his early twenties would know how intelligence is handled at the White House level, what NSA material is used or discarded by the President or more than just the fringes about CIA operations."