

Around the Nation

Stolen Papers Periled U.S. Defense

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.—M. Sgt. Walter T. Perkins could have seriously jeopardized the United States' defense system if he had succeeded in smuggling secret documents to Soviet agents, a top intelligence officer testified yesterday.

Lt. Col. Skyilar Crowell, head of the Air Defense Weapons Center's intelligence unit here, testified at Perkins' court-martial on espionage charges that one of the documents concerned America's airborne radar capability and others dealt with Soviet air to air missile systems.

"They would have known what we knew about them and what we didn't know," Crowell said. "They would have known all our weaknesses."

Perkins is accused of attempting to smuggle five secret documents to Soviet agents in Mexico City last October. The Russians allegedly promised to set three American prisoners of war

in North Vietnam free in exchange for the documents.

Crowell, who was Perkins' commanding officer, said the 37-year-old non-commissioned officer was supposed to have destroyed the documents last Sept. 10 — just over a month before he was arrested with them while attempting to board a plane at nearby Panama City for Mexico.

Crowell said a thick manual entitled "Electro Magnetic Warfare Program" found in Perkins' attic case at the time of his arrest would have told the Soviets what kind of radar equipment American jets will carry for the next eight years.

"It would have told them of the capability of this equipment against Soviet equipment," he testified, "and the Soviets would have known which of their equipment we could counteract and which we couldn't."

Crowell said another document involved "all we know" about the Soviet SS9 ballistic missile system, and

air-to-air missiles developed by Russia to counteract possible air invasion. This document, he said, "would be extremely valuable to the Soviets. It would tell them not only what we know about the SS9 but what we don't know."

The other three documents, said Crowell, involved detailed analysis on what America knows about Eastern European and Russian defense systems.

ABA Convention

The first of 7,500 attorneys arrived for the 26th annual American Bar Association convention, at which the lawyers will discuss their own problems and their role in solving those of society.

The agenda for the week-long meeting, which runs through Aug. 17, includes such items as electronic eavesdropping, women's rights, no-fault auto insurance, the conduct of judges and de-criminalization of marijuana possession.

But most section meetings

will be devoted to problems of various legal specialties and will be addressed by experts both inside and outside the profession.

The ABA House of Delegates will meet during the convention's final four days to set official association policy on marijuana, no-fault, wiretapping and the review of cases involving prisoners under death sentences.

Suit Settled

BERKELEY, Calif.—Seventy-one persons jailed during the 1969 "People's Park" disturbances here have won out-of-court settlements of \$250 each against the Alameda County sheriff.

Berkeley-Albany Municipal Judge James Holstrom announced the agreement Tuesday and the dismissal of the mass suit against Sheriff Frank Madigan. Attorney Robert Treuhart originally had sought \$2,000 for each of his clients on grounds of false arrest and imprisonment.

The 71 were arrested on

May 1, 1969, at the height of demonstrations waged against the University of California's plans to turn a vacant lot into a paved parking facility.

Shootout Award

OAKLAND, Calif.—A judge has criticized police and awarded \$12,000 to two Oakland women whose home was hit by 189 police bullets four years ago during a shootout that left Black Panthers Bobby Hurton dead and Eldridge Cleaver wounded.

Police said the two hid in the basement of a home occupied by Nellie Pere, 82, and her daughter, Ella Wade, 59, after a street ambush some distance away that left two officers wounded.

The gunbattle April 6, 1968, lasted 90 minutes. Police used tear gas to flush the two Panthers from the house, setting the basement on fire. Police said Hurton was shot and killed as he tried to run away.

From staff reports and news dispatches