

Schwartz's 'Spy' Friends Were Israeli Diplomats

AP Wire Service Associated Press

The "espionage agents" whom a Senate subcommittee lawyer viewed as questionable associates for a State Department official were Israeli diplomats, a new volume of testimony from the Senate Internal Security subcommittee said last night.

The issue caused a brief news flurry last November when an earlier volume of testimony disclosed counsel J. G. Sourwine's concern that Abba P. Schwartz had been cleared to handle secret matters despite his "former association with espionage agents of a foreign government."

Schwartz at that time was administrator of the State Department's Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs. He resigned last month in protest against a move to abolish the post.

Schwartz said in a statement last November that the men Sourwine referred to were "diplomatic acquaintances," and members of a "friendly, non-Communist em-

bassy" in Washington, with whom he had contact when he worked for the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

In yesterday's volume of testimony Sourwine identified six men as "members of the Israeli intelligence service."

Schwartz said he knew all except two but only as "people who were interested in the refugee problem."

Otherwise the bulky, 414-page volume was devoted largely to a lengthy dispute between the subcommittee and the State Department about whether the Department should issue passports to supposed Communists in cases when it cannot prove in court that the applicant is indeed a Communist and as such should not get a passport.

The State Department's position, based on a Supreme Court ruling, was explained by William J. Crockett, Deputy Under Secretary for Administration, who said that "there is no way to deny a passport on the basis of evidence undisclosed to the applicant."