

Watergate News Reaches Russia

Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, April 29—Readers of Pravda, the official Soviet newspaper, learned for the first time today that something called the "Watergate affair" was going on in Washington.

Pravda spelled out Watergate phonetically in Russian, but it failed to spell out any details of the scandal. A brief dispatch from Tass, the gov-

ernment news agency, reported that L. Patrick Gray III had resigned as acting director of the FBI.

Tass quoted Gray as saying he had to resign because of "serious accusations" made against him in connection with his participation in the investigation into the Watergate affair.

Until now, the Soviet press has completely ignored Watergate, apparently out of a desire not to insult President Nixon. Today, Pravda readers learned that there was a "scandal"—the word was attributed to The Washington Post—and that it involved an attempt to put a listening device in the Democratic Party's offices.

But there was no hint in Pravda's story that the White House or even the Republican Party was involved in this "affair."