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KGB Taps Of Phones Reported

CHICAGO, June 22 (AP)—The National Security Agency secretly tuned in on a massive KGB operation that was monitoring private telephone calls of Americans, including government and business leaders, the Chicago Tribune reported today.

The United States and the Soviet Union have long had the capability to intercept microwaves, which are used within the United States to transmit up to 70 per cent of long-distance telephone calls.

But the computer technology needed to separate the long distance telephone conversations and identify the callers is vastly more complicated. The Russians apparently have put the intercepting method into practice only recently, the Tribune reported.

The newspaper quoted an informed source who estimated the Soviet operation at "hundreds of thousands, even millions of telephone conversations."

It said intelligence sources told the Rockefeller commis-

sion the Soviets apparently have homed in on the microwave pattern from the Capitol and other key government offices. It quoted one source as saying the Russians had listened in on every member of Congress at one time or another, but that could not be confirmed elsewhere.

The Soviets have intercepted radio microwaves by a fixed antenna on the ground or by satellite, the newspaper said. It quoted one source as saying the NSA, which carries out most U.S. electronic intelligence gathering, also has developed the ability to intercept or piggyback the Soviet efforts to transmit their information, but did not elaborate on how the NSA performed such activities.

The NSA maintains its own files and shares the information with other segments of the intelligence community, particularly with the FBI and Central Intelligence Agency.

The newspaper said the information was included in testimony to the Rockefeller commission during its investigation into U.S. intelligence operations, but the testimony was censored heavily in the commission's report "for national security reasons."

The sources said Vice President Rockefeller was particularly disturbed by the extent of the Soviet operation, but was impressed by U.S. ability to detect it.