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**RIGGED ARMS DATA
ON SOVIET ALLEGED**

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House Intelligence Unit Cites
Evidence of U.S. Agencies
Distorting Estimates

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—The House Intelligence Committee has obtained what its staff director today termed "substantial information" pointing to an effort within the Ford Administration to distort official American estimates of Soviet nuclear weapons strength and deployment.

The director, A. Searle Field, told the 13-member select committee at a public hearing that, according to his information, the apparent distortions could have been undertaken "by either those who are in favor of détente nad seeking a second SALT provision, or by those who oppose that." SALT is the term for strategic arms limitations talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. In 1972, a first accord was reached in the talks to curb offensive nuclear missiles and antimissile defenses.

Following Mr. Field's testimony, the House committee voted to subpoena from the White House documents provided by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and other agencies since May 1972 relating to the adherence by both signers of the 1972 treaty on strategic-arms limitation between the United States and the Soviet Union, and a second-stage agreement reached last year.

Mr. Field did not elaborate on his assertion, except to say that some sort of "double bookkeeping" might have taken

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place in the Administration on the extent of United States deployment of nuclear weapons as well as its estimates of Soviet strength.

It was not clear whether the distortions were intended to suggest that the Soviet Union was weaker or stronger than it actually is, or might have been meant to deceive the Russians about American operational nuclear capability.

The committee's staff, he said had "been trying now for a few weeks" to obtain from the Administration documents and other materials that might bear on such distortions, in which "there may or may not be improprieties involved."

But he cautioned the committee that such information might not now be forthcoming voluntarily because "it relates very much to a recent crisis that has taken place in the executive branch."

Mr. Field apparently referred to the dismissal by President Ford on Monday of James R. Schlesinger as Secretary of Defense and William W. Colby as the Director of Central Intelligence, and his removal of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger as National Security adviser to the President.

The committee's subpoena specifically mentions documents produced by the Disarmament Agency's Standing Consultative Commission, part of a joint Soviet-American body set up by the 1972 agreement to discuss problems, including allegations by either side of noncompliance, in the SALT accord.

It has been generally known for nearly a year that a serious dispute has existed within the Administration over the degree of the Soviet Union's compliance with the 1972 agreement, with President Ford and others in the White House reportedly arguing that there have been no substantive violations by the Soviet Union and some Defense Department officials strongly disagreeing.

Presumably, the distortions to which Mr. Field alluded could stem from differing assessments within the Government over whether some specific action by the Soviet Union amounted to noncompliance with the agreement.

There have been recent reports, denied by high Administration officials, that Secretary of State Kissinger became aware last month during his visit to Peking of the existence in the Pentagon of two sets of estimates of Soviet nuclear strength, of American operational nuclear strength, or both.

According to these reports, Mr. Kissinger began an investigation upon his return to Washington, and his discovery that a "double bookkeeping" system did exist contributed to the removal of Mr. Schlesinger and possibly Mr. Colby as well.

A number of members of Congress said earlier this week that Mr. Schlesinger's departure was due in part to his disagreement with Mr. Kissinger's continuing attempts to advance détente with the Soviet Union. The talks on strategic arms limitation are an important part of détente.

But Administration and intelligence sources have described the dismissal of Mr. Colby as an entirely separate matter, hinging on his willingness to provide intelligence information to House and Senate investigators well beyond the level of

disclosure thought by Mr. Ford and his aides to be appropriate.

Representative Otis G. Pike, chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, took issue today with those in the Administration and elsewhere who, he said, had accused Mr. Colby of having been too "forthcoming" with Congress. "It has been my own experience" he told Mr. Colby, who appeared before the committee today in his new role as interim head of the Central Intelligence Agency, "that if you are asked precisely the right question, you will give an honest answer. You do not make it easy for us to ask the right question."

Today's appearance by Mr. Colby, who has agreed to a request from President Ford to remain in his post until his designated successor, George Bush, is confirmed by the Senate, was the first indication that he would continue during that period to act as the C.I.A.'s official representative before the many committees looking into aspects of the agency's activities.

In response to questions from members of the Pike Committee, Mr. Colby acknowledged that the C.I.A. had continued its practice, first disclosed two years ago, of employing as informants abroad some part-time correspondents of major American news-gathering organizations.

He declined to discuss in

public session the names of either the correspondents or the organizations, but indicated that the practice extended to free-lance radio and television correspondents as well as part-time newspaper and magazine writers.

Mr. Colby emphasized, however, that the C.I.A. did not now employ any full-time staff correspondents of American news-gathering organizations.

He also confirmed that Chester Cooper, a C.I.A. officer lent to the white house's National Security Council staff in 1964 had been the recipient of advance copies of speeches prepared for Senator Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona, who was the Republican Presidential nominee that year.

Mr. Colby said that the speeches had been picked up by a woman employee of the C.I.A.'s domestic operation division and delivered to Mr. Cooper's office in the Wethi House, where part of his duties had included writing speeches for President Lyndon B. Johnson, Mr. Goldwater's opponent in the 1964 race.

The ousted C.I.A. director acknowledged that the operation, which he said had been initiated by Tracy Barnes, a late C.I.A. official, had been "improper," and added that "I certainly would not countenance picking up speeches by another candidate and giving them to the White House."