

# U.S. Aide Seeking Secrets Crackdown

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

WASHINGTON, July 13 — The director of the United States disarmament agency is pressing Congress to make it a crime to divulge or publish secret information on how this country monitors Soviet military developments.

So far, the efforts of Dr. Fred S. Iklé of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, in speeches over the last six months and in testimony before a House of Representatives committee last week, have received little public notice.

But his views reflect those of a considerable number of Administration officials, including Secretary of State Kissinger, who fear that the spate of disclosures in recent months about the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency could weaken this country's ability to conduct secret surveillance of Soviet military efforts.

This in turn, Dr. Iklé argues, could cripple agreements on arms control, such as those on limiting strategic arms, because such agreements are linked to accurate but highly secret means of gathering intelligence.

## A Growing Burden

Appearing before a subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, Dr. Iklé said that "as matters now stand, monitoring an expanding array of arms control agreements levies increasing burdens of scope and complexity on our intelligence organizations."

"It lies in the nature of this work that much has to proceed under the protection of secrecy," he continued. "Unre-

strained publicity about our monitoring methods provides a potential violator with a road map for deception or countermeasures, thus making the verification methods in some cases ineffective. We cannot inform the party whose conduct we wish to verify of each and every step we take to check its compliance."

"Today the legal protection of our verification capability is inadequate," Dr. Iklé said. "Appropriate legislation is needed."

Representative Clement J. Zablocki, Democrat of Wisconsin and chairman of the subcommittee, asked what "suggestions" Dr. Iklé had. Dr. Iklé said he had no specific ones in mind and that the problem should be tackled by the Administration and Congress together.

## Protection Lacking

"What I had in mind is the fact that there is not sufficient protection for expensive intelligence methods that are required for the verification of arms control agreements," he said to Mr. Zablocki. "There is protection against outright espionage. If somebody furnishes information about these methods to a potential adversary, there is a high penalty."

"But if someone writes a book about it, or goes to a newspaper, and this newspaper puts in on the front page of a Sunday edition, there is a Pulitzer prize, rather than a penalty for it," he added.

Dr. Iklé contends that the United States can check on Soviet military development only through a highly secret, complex system of gathering information, more elaborate than satellite photography,

which is well known to the public.

"I am worried that in our zeal to expose improprieties of the past," he said in a recent speech in Pittsburgh, "we might damage beyond repair the ability of our intelligence organizations to do their job in the future. If that happened, arms control would come to a dead end."

It is known that besides the use by both countries of satellite photography, Soviet nuclear submarines are tracked by American listening stations and submarines to determine how many are in service. Radar and listening devices also are important in keeping check on Soviet bombers and missile launches. It is said that intelligence agents are also used.

Much of this activity is assumed to be already known to the Russians, but Dr. Iklé contended in an interview that there were some things they did not know, or did not react to unless news of them was published.

The discussion by Dr. Iklé comes at a time when Congress, amid high controversy, is considering a revision of the federal criminal code under which newsmen would be liable to severe fines and up to seven years in jail for disclosing "national defense information."

This provision has been denounced as the establishing of "some kind of official secrets act" by Clayton Kirkpatrick, editor of The Chicago Tribune and chairman of the freedom of information committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

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