

Passport Chief Flouts Orders On CIA Phone

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WASHINGTON.

In violation of instructions by her State Department superiors, Passport director Frances Knight has ordered a direct "scrambler" telephone to the Central Intelligence Agency installed in her offices.

Whether the phone is actually working could not be determined because State Department spokesmen either refused to discuss the matter on security grounds or, in one case, denied it but refused to check further.

However, a high-ranking Administration official told the New



Frances G. Knight

York Herald Tribune yesterday that he "presumed" the order from Miss Knight was filled
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and that the CIA phone was in operation. It was also learned from reliable sources that Miss Knight has on her staff at least three persons in "intimate" contact with the CIA—if not directly in that agency's employ.

Miss Knight and her Passport Office have been the center of a high-level squabble in the State Department that has gone on for years and broke into the open most recently with the resignation of Miss Knight's superior, Abba P. Schwartz.

Three years ago, it was learned yesterday, Miss Knight was ordered to end her direct connections with the CIA—and especially to remove a private CIA line she had then—so that all necessary requests for security information could be channeled through the State Department's Intelligence and Research Bureau.

The Passport Office has regular need for classified information from the CIA and other investigative and intelligence agencies. But instructions issued to Miss Knight direct that all such information must come and go through the Intelligence and Research Bureau.

A private security phone to the CIA gives the Passport Office the potential of getting and giving security information on various matters without the knowledge of the Secretary of State or his under secretaries.

These matters could include—as they have in the recent past—the granting of special passports to CIA agents and the agents of other intelligence agencies.

The granting of such passports is exclusively handled in the Passport Office by Miss Knight and Robert Johnson, the office's legal consul. Mr. Johnson refused to answer a reporter's questions about any phase of the office's activities.

In the past there have been frequent complaints by U. S. ambassadors that they were not informed of the identity of CIA agents in their embassies, although it is a matter of White House policy that the ambassadors be so notified.

There have also been complaints, from ambassadors abroad and from within the State Department, that without a strict check on the issuance of passports to U. S. intelligence agents there can be no foolproof way of keeping the State Department's top men informed of clandestine operations overseas.

The order three years ago cutting off Miss Knight's direct contact with the CIA was issued by Mr. Schwartz, then Security and Consular Affairs Bureau administrator. He resigned the post a month ago when he learned that a secret reorganization plan would abolish his job and bureau.

Mr. Schwartz said yesterday that he had no way of knowing if Miss Knight's new private line was in operation, but he confirmed that he was told about her ordering the device some three weeks before he quit the department.

Meanwhile, the second of five volumes of 1963 testimony before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee was released yesterday, and it served to add another 300 pages of proof that Miss Knight and Mr. Schwartz were locked in classic bureaucratic combat during Mr. Schwartz's three and one-half years in the administrator's job.

As she had in a volume of testimony released last week, Miss Knight vigorously attacked Mr. Schwartz for trying to take away authority which she insisted belonged to her—and thus making her job much more difficult.

She accused the SCA office, of which Miss Knight's office is a subordinate part, of:

① Sending out orders to posts abroad affecting Passport Office procedure without consulting the Passport Office first. One case in point was the abolition of the long-standing procedure that encouraged traveling citizens to register with the U. S. Embassy when abroad.

② Delaying action for months on a series of foreign affairs manual revisions drawn up by Miss Knight's office in the field of citizenship requirements.

③ Eliminating the requirement that photographs of children under five years of age be included in passports of their parents. Miss Knight said she was informed by Mr. Schwartz that children under five have facial features which change rapidly and therefore the photograph is not accurate identification.

Asked if she agreed with Mr. Schwartz's opinion, Miss Knight said:

"To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Schwartz has no children and is not an expert in photography. I can assure you pictures of children are identifiable, and any parent will tell you so."

Mr. Schwartz is a bachelor, and Miss Knight's comment is said to have brought smiles at the hearing.

For his part, Mr. Schwartz was thoroughly grilled by the subcommittee on charges made by Miss Knight and on information obtained by the subcommittee.

At one point, Mr. Schwartz was asked by the subcommittee's chief counsel J. G. Sourwine whether he had sent an aid, Gene Krizek, to sit in on a Passport Office field agent's conference held Oct. 29 to Nov. 2, 1963—during the Cuban missile crisis.

Mr. Schwartz took the opportunity to counter-attack by remarking that there was a problem whether to hold the conference under the circumstances and later testifying that Miss Knight countermanded his orders not to hold the conference because she said it was too late to call back scheduled speakers and en route field agents.

Mr. Sourwine also asked for Mr. Krizek's report of the conference to Mr. Schwartz, and the Krizek memorandum, which raised eyebrows in the State Department, was supplied for the record and was nowhere questioned by the subcommittee.