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Court Action

CIA Wants Its Story a Secret

Washington

The Justice Department obtained a temporary restraining order yesterday to prevent a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency from disclosing what the department termed "highly classified information."

Attorney General - Designate Richard G. Kleindienst said United States District Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr. issued the order at Alexandria, Va., after the department filed a civil suit earlier in the day against Victor L. Marchetti, 42, of Vienna, Va., a former executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA.

The suit sought to enforce an agreement signed by Marchetti and all CIA employees in which they state that they will not reveal any security information gained by working for the agency, even after terminating their employment.

The department said an article which Marchetti has sold to a national magazine and a non-fiction book manuscript by him which allegedly discusses CIA activities in detail were cited in the suit as evidence that he

does not plan to honor the agreement.

The department refused to name the magazine, the book, or the publishers considering them.

Robert V. Lohmann, employed by the CIA in New York City, said in an affidavit that the copy of Marchetti's article was entitled "Twilight of the Spooks" and the outline for his book was entitled "A Concept for a Book about the Central Intelligence Agency."

Lohmann said the material came to him from a confidential source.

The suit asked the court to order Marchetti not to violate the secrecy agreement he signed when he joined the agency; to submit to the CIA in advance of publication anything he has written which purports to relate to the agency so it can be insured he has not used any classified information; and to return to the agency government documents and papers which he possesses.

In an affidavit filed with the complaint, CIA Director Richard Helms said he has read the proposed national magazine article and that disclosure of its contents would compromise current intelligence sources and methods.

Marchetti joined the CIA in 1955 upon graduation from Penn State University. He resigned in August, 1969.

United Press