

# Did Moorer Face Ouster Over Spy?

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WASHINGTON — An angry President Nixon wanted to fire Adm. Thomas Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in 1971 when White

House spies told him that military spies were spying on Henry Kissinger.

Kissinger, now secretary of state, was Mr. Nixon's national security adviser in 1971.

This account, obtained independently from two sources, appears to substantiate reports from other sources that the White House "plumbers" had produced evidence indicating that unauthorized information was passed to Moorer and other military officials.

It is not known what changed Mr. Nixon's mind, but the answer appears to lie in facts surrounding the investigation still being kept secret by the White House as a national security matter.

Although it would not deny the reports of a military spying and eavesdropping operation within the National Security Council, the White House suggested Friday that a Navy enlisted man, identified as Yeoman 1/c Charles Radford, was solely responsible for

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leaks of classified information. Radford, now in an Oregon Naval Reserve unit, could not be reached for comment.

According to accounts of the military spying operation supplied the Tribune, some of the information obtained by military spies later leaked out to the press. It was to find the sources of these leaks that Mr. Nixon established the "plumbers" unit in 1971.

The White House explanation about the enlisted man also does not say why Moorer's representative to Kissinger's staff, Rear Adm. Robert O. Welander, abruptly left the National Security office early in 1972. Welander was reassigned to a series of flotilla commands in the Washington area.

(In San Clemente, meanwhile, White House officials branded as "inaccurate" a Chicago Sun-Times report that Henry A. Kissinger ordered a telephone tapped in 1971 in the office of Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird.

The Sun-Times reported that Kissinger, in his capacity as Mr. Nixon's national security affairs adviser, ordered the tap after a microphone was discovered in the office of one of his aides, Wayne Smith.

Smith's office was the site of all technical planning for Kissinger's negotiations on Vietnam and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, the newspaper said.

(President Nixon's aides denied the Sun-Times story as "incorrect" in all its aspects.)

## No Details

Despite apparent inconsistencies, high-level White House aides are offering no explanations Saturday. Senior White House officials contend that providing details would risk national security.

"It is impossible to explain this to you," said one top official, "because even the explanation is classified."

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PHILA. INQUIRER

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Attempts to push aside the cloak of national security are being made by both the Senate Watergate Committee and the special prosecutor's office. The minority staff of the Watergate committee is known to be investigating whether Navy men other than

one enlisted man were responsible for the National Security Council leaks.

Sen. Howard Baker (R., Tenn.), the committee's vice chairman, twice has asked the White House to relieve him of his pledge not to discuss the matter, White House sources said.

### *Some Hints Offered*

Since the administration refuses to present its own case, it is difficult to give its side of the story supporting the argument that real national security matters are involved. But from what has been said in the past, and from apparent hints in recent statements, it seems that the following matters have concerned the White House:

- A leak to a New York Times reporter in 1971 which the Central Intelligence Agency claims endangered an Indian national who was feeding information about the Soviet Union to the United States.

- Leaks about the U. S. plans for the SALT disarmament talks in 1971, and about Mr. Nixon's orders to "tilt" toward Pakistan in its war with India late that year. It is that information which was available at Kissinger's office, and which White House officials say the Navy enlisted man gave or sold to newsmen.

- Fear that it would become known that the United States learned that a copy of the Pentagon Papers had been delivered to the Soviet Embassy in Washington through a Russian intelligence agent acting as a double agent for the United States.

At the time in 1971, administration officials apparently feared all the leaks might be coming from one source or related sources. Several persons have said that John Mitchell, the attorney general, was convinced there was a centralized conspiracy going on, and so informed the President.

But the administration's own accounts, there was no such conspiracy.