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4 More FBI Telephone Tapes Reported in Probe of Leaks

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The FBI conducted four previously unreported national security wiretaps in 1971-72 as part of an investigation into the unauthorized distribution of Dr. Henry A. Kissinger's secret documents to the Pentagon, according to informed sources.

The taps were made on telephones of friends and associates of Navy Yeoman 1C Charles E. Radford who had access to the most sensitive National Security Council documents, including notes of Kissinger's first secret visit to China in 1971. When Kissinger was President Nixon's national security adviser.

The sources would not reveal the identities of the

friends of Radford whose phones were tapped.

White House attorneys became so concerned that Radford might publicly disclose sensitive national security matters that they asked the special Watergate prosecutor and the Senate select Watergate committee last year not to investigate the Radford case.

Their concern was increased, according to the sources, by a Pentagon official who was believed by White House aides to be trying to pressure his way into directorship of the FBI in June of last year.

The official, W. Donald Stewart, former chief of the investigations division at the Pentagon who was in charge of the Radford investigation there, reminded the

White House during an interview for the FBI job that he knew of the sensitive Radford investigation.

White House attorneys also alleged, the sources said, that Stewart dropped hints and pressured for the No. 2 FBI job in a June 25 letter to White House aide William J. Baroody Jr. This was after Clarence M. Kelly had been selected as the new FBI director.

Stewart, who is now inspector general of the Defense Investigative Service for the Defense Department, denied yesterday that he was using his knowledge of the Radford case to get the FBI directorship. "The purpose of the letter (to Baroody) was to lay out my See SECURITY, A12, Col: 1

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qualifications," Stewart said. He declined to read the letter to a reporter.

Reliable sources said that White House lawyer J. Fred Buzhardt sent the information on Stewart's alleged pressure to the Justice Department last year for an investigation. The criminal division of the Justice Department concluded, however, that Stewart had not violated the law, the sources said.

Buzhardt said yesterday that he would have no comment on the information. Baroody could not be reached for comment.

Radford was the assistant to Navy Rear Admiral Robert O. Welander, at the time the liaison aide between the Pentagon and the White House. Radford, who apparently was the central figure in copying Kissinger's documents and forwarding them to the Pentagon, also was suspected of leaking classified documents to his friend, syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. Radford has denied this.

The unauthorized distribution of Kissinger's papers was discovered in the course of an investigation into the news leak to Anderson about the administration's policy in the India-Pakistan war in late 1971.

In addition to the Pentagon investigation into the matter, White House aide David Young, one of the so-called "plumbers" in charge of investigating news leaks, conducted a probe that government sources said exaggerated the seriousness of the flow of Kissinger's documents to the Pentagon.

The White House liaison post held by Welander has since been abolished. Government sources have previously reported that the FBI tapped Radford's phone for more than six months during the investigation and that Radford was later transferred to a Navy recruiting post in Oregon.

White House and Senate Select Watergate Committee sources have said that the Radford incident — and the possibility that he might disclose national security secrets — was the much-publicized national security matter that the President had said justified White House requests last year that investigations into the "plumbers" be limited.

Many of these sources have sharply disputed the President's decision to invoke national security in connection with the Radford incident. The sources also have disputed press accounts which characterize the Radford incident as "spying" or involving a "ring" of military aides.

Radford frequently traveled with Kissinger and General Alexander M. Haig, then Kissinger's deputy and now the White House chief of staff. Reliable sources said that Radford actually acted as a recording secretary for Kissinger and had access to Kissinger's handwritten notes and papers after the first secret visit to China.

In addition, the sources said that Radford traveled on several of Haig's sensitive negotiating missions to Vietnam.

Radford told a reporter several weeks ago that he was sworn to secrecy and will never disclose secret information or the details of his interrogation after he was suspected of leaking information to Anderson.