

'A Perfect Thing'

Clerk Says He'll Prove Moorer Knew of Spying

Washington

Yeoman First Class Charles Radford contends he has sufficient information to persuade the Senate Armed Services Committee that Admiral Thomas Moorer knew the yeoman was funneling "eyes only" White House documents to the admiral's Pentagon office.

In a series of interviews, Radford acknowledged that among the documents he pilfered were copies of Henry Kissinger's personal reports to President Nixon after his secret history-making trip to China in July of 1971. Kissinger, then Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, is now the Secretary of State.

Radford was interviewed before his closed meeting Saturday with Senator John Stennis (Dem.-Miss.), who is chairman of the committee. The yeoman freely conceded in the interview that during his 15-month tenure inside the White House he funneled literally "hundreds" of documents to Moorer's office.

"It was a perfect thing," he said. "I had everybody's confidence."

During those months the yeoman was a stenographer-clerk on the military liaison unit inside the White House. His function was to facilitate the coordination of

paperwork between the National Security Council and Moorer, the chairman of the joint Chiefs of Staff.

In previously published interviews, Radford has stated that his superior officers on the military liaison unit, Rear Admiral Rembrandt Robinson and Rear Admiral Robert Welander, both urged him to take the material covertly.

Asked about Moorer's personal involvement, the yeoman said that at least four different officer assigned to Moorer's office received the documents during his activities in late 1970 and throughout 1971. Those documents, he said, were "sanitized" — that is, all identifying marks were clipped off and the material pasted on a white sheet of paper.

The yeoman said, however, that he did not sanitize documents intended personally for Moorer's attention. "He got them with all the markings," the yeoman said.

Furthermore, Radford said, he was always encouraged by his superior officers to believe that Moorer was grateful for his efforts. He quoted Robinson, who was killed in Southeast Asia in 1972, as telling him repeatedly that "Admiral Moorer was pleased with the infor-

mation. I always got feedback."

Radford said that he was once introduced to Moorer by Robinson, but that there was no discussion of his clandestine pilfering.

The yeoman acknowledged that he is in an awkward position at best, as an enlisted man challenging the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. But he declared that he has much more specific information about Moorer's involvement that he would tell the Senate.

"He's not afraid and he's ready to tell the truth," said William J. Claussen of Salem, Ore., Radford's attorney.

Both Claussen and Radford were interviewed Friday while enroute from Portland, Ore., to Washington for their meeting with Stennis. No details of that 2½-hour session could be learned yesterday, but the senator told newsmen that Radford was "cooperative fully" and that he was subpoenaed to appear before the full committee February 18.

The Senate will be in recess this week.

The yeoman repeatedly said that he had begun his spying operations at the request of others. "The thought never occurred to me until Admiral Robinson suggested it to me," he said. "We never made a big deal about it. It was just a simple routine operation."

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