

Pentagon Spying Hit In Report

Associated Press

A Senate Armed Services Committee report yesterday condemned Pentagon spying on the White House National Security Council, but said the incidents in 1970 and 1971 were isolated and posed no threat to civilian control of the military.

The committee said the acknowledged rifling of burn bags and pilfering papers from the briefcase of Henry A. Kissinger to get information for the Joint Chiefs of Staff was "an unjustifiable breakdown in professional conduct" by a Navy yeoman.

But it said Rear Adm. Robert O. Welander, who headed the joint chiefs' liaison office in the White House, was "a cognizant participant" in the surreptitious activity by Yeoman Charles E. Radford and must bear "the major responsibility."

The committee reported publicly on its hearings and inquiry in February and March into the unauthorized transmittal of National Security Council documents from Radford, through Welander to Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It said it found no evidence that it was improper for Moorer to have access to the material provided by the liaison office and said "Adm. Moorer did nothing improper in connection with the entire episode." The report did not speculate in reasons for the spying.

In a related inquiry into leaks of classified National Security Council information to columnist Jack Anderson in December, 1971, the committee found them to be "a serious compromise to national security decision-making." It regretted lack of prosecution.

In making the committee report public, Chairman John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) said a copy will be sent to the Justice Department "for whatever further action is deemed appropriate."

Another copy will be sent to the Navy and Defense Department with a recommendation that it be considered in evaluating the performance of Radford and Welander.

Welander is now assistant deputy chief of naval operations for plans and policy. Radford is assigned to a Naval

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in a separate statement, Stennis called the sneaking of documents "deplorable and inexcusable," but he said "we do not believe it resulted in any direct harm to national security."

The report said the committee found no direct link between the unauthorized transmittal of documents to the Pentagon and the leaks to Anderson.

The Armed Services Committee applauded its demise, calling it "an inherently unworkable and inappropriate arrangement."

Commenting in the report

reserve station in Salem, Ore. The liaison office, which in 1971 was headed by Welander, with Radford as a clerical assistant, since has been abolished.