

# State Department Concedes 3 Employees Get CIA Lie Tests

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The State Department acknowledged yesterday that at White House "request" three of its employees were given lie detector tests by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1971 in an investigation of a news leak.

Instructions to follow that procedure were transmitted to the State Department by Eglil Krogh Jr., director of the Special Investigations Unit in the White House known as the "plumbers." Krogh was then an assistant to President Nixon's chief domestic adviser, John D. Ehrlichman.

Until yesterday, there was no official admission that the CIA was brought into State to conduct the lie detector tests in July, 1971, or that the "plumbers" proposed the process. Secretary of State William P. Rogers on Sept. 3, 1971, acknowledged that the investigation had taken place, but declined to discuss "investigative techniques."

President Nixon said yesterday that the "plumbers" unit "operated under extremely tight security rules."

The disclosure yesterday on the use of lie detectors was the second in two weeks involving the Krogh group and State. State earlier acknowledged that in September, 1971, on White House authority, it supplied 240 classified cables to E. How-

ard Hunt Jr., who worked in the "plumbers" unit. Hunt, failing to find what he sought in the cables, recently admitted he forged two cables tying the late President Kennedy to the assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963.

In each affair, State Department officials said yesterday, they were complying with official requests from the White House without any awareness of subsequent irregular or illegal action by members of the "plumbers" group.

In 1971, when the use of lie detectors was first reported at State, officials there concealed the involvement of the CIA and told newsmen the polygraph, or lie detector, tests were administered by the FBI. When the late J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, attacked The Washington Post for reporting that, State Department officials maintained their silence about the CIA involvement.

Many State officials said yesterday that they themselves were unaware of the CIA role until a recent inquiry provoked by persistent questions from newsmen about the "plumbers."

Initially, officials recalled yesterday, there was a government-wide "uproar" over the disclosure in a New York Times story by William Beecher on July 22, 1971 of a U.S. negotiating position in

the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) before it was presented to the Soviet Union in secret talks. Beecher, paradoxically, recently became a deputy press spokesman at the Defense Department.

State officials said yesterday that their investigation of the 1971 "leak" produced the names of three officials who had talked with Beecher in that general period. The names were supplied to the White House.

State spokesman John F. King said yesterday that as a result, "the White House asked that three of our people and one Department of Defense employee undergo polygraphing and said that the CIA would do the polygraphing. The department concurred with the White House request on the understanding that the people concerned agreed voluntarily. This they did."

The degree of voluntarism involved in such a situation is open to question, newsmen noted. The spokesman insisted, nevertheless, that it was Secretary Rogers' position that "if they decided not to take the test it would not be considered against them."

King said the Central Intelligence Agency "provided the (polygraph) technicians to work under the direction of our security office" because "it was apparently the policy of the director of the

FBI not to allow the FBI to polygraph employees of other government agencies."

State "had no polygraph equipment or the capability to use such equipment," said King.

The spokesman recalled that Secretary Rogers, on Sept. 3, 1971—without even directly conceding the use of lie detectors—said that the suspected State employees "demonstrated their innocence to our satisfaction." King declined to name the officials involved, but said, "They still occupy positions of responsibility in the Department." The three cleaned officials are said to be members of State's political-military affairs bureau.

Officials said White House instructions to sue the lie detectors were transmitted by telephone from Krogh to G. Marvin Gentile, deputy assistant secretary of state for security, and Gentile passed on the request to William B. Macomber, then deputy under secretary for management.

The Central Intelligence Agency, through a spokesman, said yesterday that it supplied polygraph operators to State on "instructions from the White House."

There was no intrusion of the CIA into domestic affairs in this case, a CIA spokesman said.

Use of CIA technicians,

the spokesman said, was "consistent with the Director of CIA's statutory responsibility for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosures."

There is therefore no conflict, the CIA spokesman said, with the prohibition in the National Security Act of 1947 which bars the CIA from engaging in police or "internal security functions" in the United States for that reason. Also, "the operators provided to the agency," the spokesman said, "were detailed to the State Department and were under the direction, control and authority of the Department's Office of Security