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**FBI Probing
State Dept.
Over Leaks**

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

State Department personnel are being questioned by FBI agents in an effort to determine how recent sensitive information was leaked to the press, it was disclosed yesterday.

Robert J. McCloskey, State Department spokesman, told newsmen at a briefing that the investigations were prompted by concern that "stories harmful to the national interest" are being disclosed by unauthorized persons.

He repeatedly declined to make a denial when asked about reports that FBI agents are giving State Department officials lie detector tests in efforts to locate

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FBI's Probe of The State Dept.

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the sources of the news leaks.

McCloskey said the FBI questioning is being done "with the approval of the Secretary of State," but he declined to say who ordered it.

Powell Moore, an official in the Justice Department's information office, said the investigations were ordered by the department's Internal Security Division.

He said that such action is taken whenever there is evidence of violations of federal security laws, and that the questioning has extended to other departments, including the Pentagon.

NERVES

The questioning by FBI agents and the reported use of lie detectors has touched sensitive nerves in the State Department, where officials say the FBI has not been active since it investigated charges of Communist infiltration raised by the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (Rep-Wis.) two decades ago. The State Department has its own security force that is assigned to probe security leaks.

In the past two weeks newsmen who cover the State Department have found that personnel there would not see them or answer their telephone calls.

McCloskey conceded that certain subjects have been temporarily placed "off lim-

its" for discussion with the press by State Department personnel.

These include President Nixon's forthcoming trip to China and the one-man election campaign of South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu.

McCloskey would not say which news articles were involved.

Some individuals who were questioned said that the agents asked about an article by William Beecher in the New York Times of July 22 giving details of U.S. negotiators' positions in the strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union. Others were asked about an earlier Times' article about arms shipments to Pakistan.