

Pentagon Got Secret Data Of Kissinger's

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Military liaison aides in the White House passed information from Dr. Henry A. Kissinger's files and meetings to the Pentagon in 1971 without Kissinger's authorization, according to informed sources.

The information, which included copies of classified documents and verbatim notes or secret tape recordings of National Security Council meetings, was sought by high Pentagon officers who were uncertain about radically shifting U.S. foreign policy toward Russia, China, and other countries, the sources said.

At least two military aides to the National Security Council, the top foreign policy making body in the White House, were removed when Kissinger, then the President's chief national security adviser, learned of the distribution of unauthorized information to the Pentagon, the sources said.

The two ousted aides are Navy Rear Admiral Robert O. Welander, who was in charge of liaison between the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the White House, and Navy Yeoman, First Class Charles E. Radford, who was an aide to Welander.

Radford, apparently the central figure in the matter, was found to be making copies of National Security Council documents with some regularity, specifically when he traveled with Kissinger and General Alexander M. Haig, then Kissinger's deputy and now the White House chief of staff, the sources said.

Radford also was suspected by the White House of leaking National Security Council documents to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. As part of the investigation of Radford, his telephone was tapped from about December, 1971, to June, 1972, under an order given to the FBI by former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

The investigation that reportedly uncovered the information-gathering activities of both Radford and Welander was ordered by an angry Kissinger after documents on U.S. policy in the India-Pakistan war were leaked to columnist Anderson in late 1971.

White House and FBI



ROBERT O. WELANDER
... transferred from post

sources said that information from the tap on Radford's telephone was regularly routed to David Young, a former Kissinger aide who helped run the White House "plumbers" operation which investigated government leaks to the news media.

Two sources said that the unauthorized distribution of this information is the mysterious national security matter that the President, Buzhardt and the Senate Watergate committee have mentioned in connection with investigations of the plumbers. Four other sources said, however, that news accounts characterizing this information distribution as spying on or surveillance of Kissinger are wrong.

See SECURITY, A10, Col. 6

SECURITY, From A1

The investigation of the leak to columnist Anderson, directed by J. Fred Buzhardt, then the Pentagon general counsel and now White House counsel, never established that Welander or Radford did anything wrong, the sources said.

In addition, the sources said it was never clear who in the Pentagon set up or benefited from the unauthorized pipeline of information from Kissinger's files and meetings.

Even though Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sat in on most National Security Council meetings, sources said that Welander, also present at the meetings, made copious notes or tape recorded the meetings and sent the information to other senior military officers.

Welander could not be reached for comment yesterday, but last week he denied any involvement in any unauthorized distribution of National Security Council material.

Radford told a reporter two weeks ago that he had been falsely accused of leaking information to columnist Anderson, who, Radford said, is a personal friend of his. "I went through a merry-go-round of interrogation," Radford said. "And I agreed to never talk about what happened and I never will."

A spokesman for Admiral Moorer said yesterday: "The chairman and the chiefs (of the military services) at no time have authorized, accepted or countenanced the unauthorized gathering of information or data from Dr. Kissinger's office."

In one of the leaked secret documents published by Anderson in late 1971, Kissinger was quoted as saying: "I am getting hell every half hour from the President that we are not being tough enough on India... He wants to tilt in favor of Pakistan" in the India-Pakistan war.

The sources said that Kissinger became angry when he learned that such detailed, verbatim notes were being taken of the meetings and ordered the practice stopped.

Some sources said yesterday that Welander's notes were not the documents leaked to Anderson. They said Welander was removed from his National Security Council post only because Radford had worked for him. Welander's job was eliminated after his transfer in late 1971.

Other government sources said that Kissinger had for some time intended to eliminate the military liaison to the National Security Council and the Anderson leak merely gave him a reason. In addition to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President, Vice President, and Secretaries of State and Defense, among others, sit on the National Security Council when it irregularly meets.

FBI and other sources said

yesterday that the tap on Yeoman Radford's phone was conducted under the authority of the attorney general to order wiretaps in national security cases. However, the tap was removed several days after a U.S. Supreme Court decision on June 19, 1972, which narrowed the authority of the government to conduct such national security wiretaps.

Under the ruling, the court said that the government did not have a right to wiretap without court orders in so-called "domestic" intelligence cases that do not involve foreign espionage.

President Nixon and former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman discussed the Su-

preme Court decision for four minutes during a morning meeting on June 20, 1972, a day after the decision, according to White House papers filed in court late last year.

The President has claimed executive privilege on the conversation with Ehrlichman when it turned up on one of the White House tape recordings subpoenaed by the special Watergate prosecutor. After listening to the tape, U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. Sirica granted the claim of executive privilege on December 19. Sirica said in his ruling that "nothing in the conversation relates to Watergate."

Radford was transferred

from the National Security Council position to a Naval reserve unit in Oregon. Welander is now assistant deputy chief of naval operations for plans and policy, an important job in the Navy hierarchy that Pentagon officials said would not have been given to anyone suspected of unauthorized distribution of classified material.

In a statement issued yesterday, the White House said that "the source of these leaks was a low-level employee whose clerical tasks gave him access to highly classified information."

Contributing to this story were Michael Getler and Lou Cannon.