



Clerk's Story

Saigon Secrets And Joint Chiefs

Sacramento

Top-secret messages intended for Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker or other high civilian officials in Saigon were routinely passed on to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says a man who worked as a document coordinator in South Vietnam.

Steven M. Davis, 23, said in an interview that it was common practice at the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. communications center in Saigon for such messages to be retransmitted to Admiral Thomas Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs. Davis said he worked as a civilian top-secret document coordinator at the communications center from January to June in 1973.

Davis said he worked for Federal Electronic Corp., an ITT subsidiary. Frank Rauzi, security manager for the corporation, based in Paramus, N.J., confirmed that Davis did work for the company as a control clerk in Saigon and would have had access to incoming and outgoing dispatches.

Moorer has acknowledged that top-secret information was passed on to him from Henry Kissinger's office when Kissinger was President Nixon's national security adviser.

Davis said that while he was on duty he handled all top-secret messages coming into the center. "I would deliver the message, and as far as I was concerned that

was it," he said.

"Then all of a sudden I would notice that all these other offices had the message and it was being retransmitted to Hawaii, to Thailand, to the JCS," he said.

Davis, who lives in Carmichael, a Sacramento suburb, said messages sent to the Joint Chiefs included information on the strategic arms limitation talks, Vietnam negotiations, State Department business and CIA investigations.

"These messages were coming from the secretary of state, they were coming from the White House, they were coming from the CIA," Davis said. "A lot of them specifically had to do with Bunker. None of this information was supposed to go anywhere else. It was supposed to be kept in these types of channels."

Davis said he protested the security violations to his superiors but was told to keep quiet. He said he was fired after telling the CIA about the practices. "They told me I was creating too many waves," Davis said, "and they found out I had given my reports to the CIA. This is why I got terminated."

Rauzi said Davis was let go in June as part of a general cutback.

Associated Press