

# Why Yeoman Stole Secrets

Washington

Navy Yeoman Charles F. Radford testified yesterday he stole secret White House documents on the Vietnam peace talks and other matters at the request of two Pentagon admirals as soon as he started White House clerk duty in 1970.

Radford's testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee implied that the Joint Chiefs of Staff were kept in the dark about some aspects of Vietnam Diplomacy, and it seemed to contradict Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's assessments of the scope and nature of the alleged "Pentagon spy ring."

Radford said the late Admiral Rembrandt Robinson, his first boss as a Pentagon Liaison clerk at the National Security Council, taught him from the outset how to steal information the Joint Chiefs



*UPI Telephoto*

**CHARLES RADFORD**  
He told of praise

wanted and cautioned him "not to take any chances" of getting caught.

Robinson was killed in a

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helicopter crash in Vietnam, but Radford said his successor at the White House, Admiral Robert O. Welander, continued to pass his information to the office of Admiral Thomas Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Moorer and Kissinger have both dismissed Radford's pilfering as the independent work of an overzealous enlisted man — "trying to get brownie points," in Kissinger's phrase — that produced only trivia.

Radford said his spy work included funneling the secret papers of Kissinger and General Alexander Haig back to the Pentagon after working for them as a stenographer on at least four trips to Vietnam, China and other Far East areas.

He said one of Moorer's aides walked up to him in the Pentagon after he had delivered papers from a 1971 Far East trip with Haig and said: "Radford, you do good work."

As one of many examples of his Vietnam spying, Radford described how Robinson allegedly briefed him on what to look for prior to Haig's December, 1970, Southeast Asia trip.

"One was a cut in troops strength in Vietnam," he said. "Another was any agreement that the White House might make with President Thieu. He further asked me to bring back any information I might see that had to do with talks between Haig and Ambassador (Emory) Swank or agreements with General Lon Nol in Phnom Penh."

The yeoman said he brought back much of Haig's correspondence from that trip, some of it "eyes only" messages to top Washington officials, and drew Robinson's praise for his work.

His testimony was full of references to the praise Rob-

inson, Welander, other Moorer aides and officials allegedly heaped upon him for keeping the Pentagon abreast of what the White House was doing.

Radford said when he accompanied Kissinger on his pivotal visit to Peking in July, 1971 — the visit that set up President Nixon's subsequent trip — Welander, who had by then succeeded Robinson, "told me he would be interested in anything I could lay my hands on.

"I remember something specifically, something about dealings with China and that anything I could gather in this area would be of particular interest to him."

He said he brought back volumes of material, delivered some of it to Welander at the President's San Clemente office and watched him take it "into another room where Admiral Moorer was . . . I naturally assumed that the book (Kissinger's agenda for upcoming meetings with Moorer) was given to him."

That was the closest Radford testified he came to linking delivery of any material to Moorer himself. Throughout, he said he assumed some of the material reached Moorer's hands.

Radford said the downfall of the spy ring began Dec. 13, 1971, when columnist Jack Anderson published an article saying Kissinger had instructed the National Security Council that Mr. Nixon wanted U.S. policy to "tilt toward Pakistan" in the Indo-Pakistani war.

Investigators subsequently decided that information came from Welander's office, which was abruptly closed. Welander and Radford were transferred.

But Radford denied he gave any information to anyone other than his military superiors, charging that security was extremely lax both at the White House and the Pentagon and there were at least seven other persons who could have fed the material to Anderson.

*United Press*