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**Admiral Denies Telling Yeoman
To Take Highly Classified Data**

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 21—Rear Adm. Robert O. Welander denied today that he ever "ordered or directed" a Navy yeoman to pilfer highly classified documents while the two men worked together in the White House in 1971.

In his first public explanation of his role in the alleged military spying incident, the admiral did acknowledge, however, that he forwarded two packets of illicitly obtained material to Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in July and September, 1971.

The documents, he said, were "offered" to him by Yeoman 1st Cl. Charles E. Radford, who told the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday that he had been urged by Admiral Welander to gather the material while on trips to the Far East with Henry A. Kissinger and Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., then President Nixon's top advisers on the National Security Council.

"At this point," Senator Harold E. Hughes, Democrat of Iowa, said after the admiral's appearance this morning, "there seems to be a direct

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conflict." "One or the other," he said in reference to Admiral Welander and Yeoman Radford, "would have to be committing perjury."

In his testimony, Admiral Welander also said that in December, 1971, shortly after the White House began an inquiry into the military spying, he was asked by John D. Ehrlichman, a top Presidential aide, to sign a statement that "would have had me admit to the wildest possible totally false charges of 'political spying' on the White House."

"Needless to say," the admiral said, "I reacted rather strongly to these accusations and set the statement aside."

Admiral Welander also denied Yeoman Radford's allegation of yesterday that the yeoman routinely funneled hundreds of illicitly obtained White House documents to the Pentagon in sealed envelopes. "It was an authorized flow of information," the admiral said, "and it did entail hundreds of documents—but they were not to my knowledge 'stolen' or 'purloined' as some would have you believe."

Testified in Secret

The yeoman testified that he

had been urged to turn his clerical assignment into "an opportunity to do a job for the Joint Chiefs" by Admiral Welander and his predecessor, Rear Adm. Rembrandt C. Robinson, who was killed in Southeast Asia in 1972.

Admiral Welander testified in secret before the committee, which is investigating the military spying charges. The committee released his 22-page prepared statement this afternoon.

In it, the admiral said that it was he who first named Yeoman Radford as a key suspect in the December, 1971, leak of secret White House materials on the India-Pakistan war to Jack Anderson, the columnist. Admiral Welander then suggested that the yeoman's subsequent naming of him in an internal military spy ring "had and retains the appearance of a very clever retribution against the one who had initiated the investigation."

His implication seemed to be that Yeoman Radford, by naming him, had succeeded in diverting the White House inquiry into the leak of the papers to Mr. Anderson to the military spying allegations.

The stocky, bespectacled admiral served from June to December, 1971, as head of the military liaison unit assigned to the National Security Council. Both he and Yeoman Radford were abruptly transferred and their office in the Security Council abolished after the Anderson leak and the subsequent discovery of the alleged military spying ring.

Young Report Cited

Previously, informed sources told The New York Times that the initial investigation of the Anderson leak had produced an admission from Yeoman Radford about his military spying. A report completed in early 1972 by David R. Young Jr., then a member of the White House investigation unit called the "plumbers," is known to have concluded that Admiral Welander and Admiral Moorer were involved in the spying operation.

In his statement, Admiral Welander described his interview with Mr. Ehrlichman who was in over-all supervision of the plumbers, in harsh terms. "I found myself trying to put gross distortions of fact and circumstance into some reasonable and rational perspective," the admiral said.

He said, "Ehrlichman's questions were all either directly attributed to statements made by Yeoman Radford or based on knowledge that only he [the yeoman] could have had of

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certain aspects of my duties." "And I would point out again," the admiral told the Senators, "that these were the unsubstantiated assertions of a young man under intensive interrogation as a primary suspect in an offense which could entail severe penalties for him."

Despite this, the admiral said, "They had apparently served to shift the focus of the [White House] investigation away from the original matter of the Anderson leaks and onto my own duties."

In previous testimony, Admiral Moorer said that he was twice overruled by "higher authorities" when he urged that judicial proceedings be initiated against Yeoman Radford for his alleged role in leaking the White House documents to Mr. Anderson.

Yeoman Radford has repeatedly denied any involvement in the Anderson leaks. Asked about Admiral Welander's testimony today, he said that he stood by his account. "What I said was true, and that's the way it was," he told newsmen.

Admiral Welander's descriptions of the two instances in which he forwarded documents purloined by Yeoman Radford paralleled the account previously given to the committee by Admiral Moorer.

"Thin Sheaf of Papers"

The first instance, he testified, took place shortly after the yeoman returned from a trip with Mr. Kissinger to Asia and China in July, 1971. The yeoman gave me "an envelope with a thin sheaf of papers—that he said would fill in some of the background," Admiral Welander said. Later, another packet of documents that had been mailed from India by the yeoman crossed his desk, the admiral said.

Some of those documents, he said, "did in fact supplement the information I had gotten," including a Vietnam situation report. He said that he had passed the material along to Admiral Moorer, who "looked at it [the Vietnam report] and then rapidly scanned the other items."

Yeoman Radford and Mr. Kissinger have testified that one of the documents taken on that trip was a private report to President Nixon concerning a conversation between Mr. Kissinger and Chou En-lai, the Chinese Premier. Such messages were never relayed to Admiral Moorer's office, Mr. Kissinger has said. Admiral Welander made no mention of that document.

Admiral Welander said that the second delivery of documents took place after Yeoman Radford returned from a trip to Southeast Asia with General Haig.

"I placed this file of papers in a manila envelope, marked it for Admiral Moorer's eyes only, and sent it to him," Admiral Welander said.