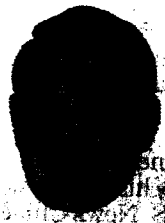


SFChronicle

# Pentagon Upset Over News Leaks

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Jack Anderson

PERIODICALLY, the Pentagon tries to scare off our news sources by unleashing its bloodhounds to find out where we get our information.

The bloodhounds are now loose again, searching up and down Pentagon corridors for our trail, growling at anyone who might have been seen talking to us.

The brass hats want to know how we found out that Air Force rainmakers have been seeding the clouds over the Ho Chi Minh trail network during the wet seasons.

This novel attempt to produce cloud-bursts to wash out the trails, we reported, was known by the secret code name: "Intermediary-Compatriot." Only a few insiders were supposed to know that, and the brass would dearly like to find out who blabbed.

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THERE is also outrage on the Pentagon's Outer "E" Ring, which the top brass inhabit, over our story about the contingency plans to bomb North Vietnam. We reported that the plans, transmitted to the Pentagon last October 17 and kept constantly up to date, include the bombing and mining of Haiphong Harbor.

It was our mention of the exact date that seemed to upset some generals the most.

Again last December, we told how the bosses of the Armed Forces radio-TV-publications empire sang songs, cracked bathroom jokes and roared with laughter as they decided whom to fire at Christmas time. The brass called an ur-

gent meeting of employees to assure our allegations were "false" and "obscure."

We offered, therefore, to play the secret proceedings and let the employees listen to the hilarity for themselves. Thereupon, Assistant Defense Secretary Roger Kelley gave up trying to deny the story and ordered an investigation instead to discover where we got the tapes.

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HE HAS NOW called in the FBI whose director, J. Edgar Hoover, happily assigned agents Leslie Chisholm, William Crowder and James Ott Jr. to the investigation. The 76-year-old FBI chief is sore at us for using some of his own techniques to investigate him.

A contest has now developed between us to see who can find out the most about the other.

The Pentagon's inspections chief himself, W. Donald Stewart, is handling the investigation of us assisted by his sidekick S. J. Cardice. We have questioned Chisholm, Cardice and Kelley about the probe. All declined comment.

The farce, however, has its serious undertones. The Pentagon seeks to control the flow of information to the public by classifying all embarrassing facts, then intimidating anyone who dares to mention these classified facts outside of Pentagon circles. This is a form of censorship that the public shouldn't tolerate.

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