

White House Took Steps to Stop Leaks Months Before Anderson Disclosures

By **ROBERT M. SMITH**

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 8—The columnist Jack Anderson has been able to disclose secret memoranda concerning National Security Council meetings recently despite White House steps months ago to prevent leaks to reporters and to insure the secrecy of council proceedings.

According to reliable sources, the White House quietly ordered David R. Young of Henry A. Kissinger's national security staff and Egil Krogh Jr. of John D. Ehrlichman's domestic advisory staff to investigate the leaks and to stop them. The action was prompted, according to Government sources, after an article in The New York Times July 23 that dealt with the talks on limitation of strategic arms and caused concern in the White House.

It is not known specifically what Mr. Krogh and Mr. Young have done in the five months since the security assignment was added to their duties. They are reported to have reviewed the procedures used by the council and to have inquired into the methods used by council members, such as Secretary of State William P. Rogers, to prepare for meetings and to handle the council's papers.

F.B.I. Called In

Presumably, Mr. Krogh and Mr. Young have had their task made more difficult by the disclosures by Mr. Anderson. The Justice Department has confirmed that the Administration had called on the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the leaks.

According to one source, Mr. Krogh and Mr. Young are authorized to call on the F.B.I. but hold the principal responsibility because "it is a White House problem" and because "it would be inappropriate to send some F.B.I. man around to talk with people like the Secretary of State." It is not known whether Mr. Rogers himself was interviewed.

The article that prompted the move was written by the Pentagon correspondent of The Times, William Beecher. The article reported that American negotiators had proposed to the Soviet Union an arms-control agreement that would halt construction of both land-based missiles and missile submarines. Mr. Beecher also reported that a companion proposal would allow as many as 300 defensive missiles in both the United States and the Soviet Union to protect offensive missiles.

The article said that the

American proposals had been made orally at negotiations in Helsinki but that specific draft agreements were still being written in Washington.

According to one Government official, the disclosure came "during a very critical stage of the negotiations" and the proposals involved "were not even in any written memo." He said the Administration's feeling was that the information had to come from someone present at the discussions of the National Security Council.

Officials at council meetings include representatives of the Defense and State Departments, the intelligence community and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The F.B.I. has conducted an extensive investigation over more than four months in an effort to uncover Mr. Beecher's sources. The inquiry has been conducted here, elsewhere in the United States and abroad, and was still going on last week.