

JAN 6 1973 Jack Anderson

# Overseas Military Advisers At Work in Civilian Garb

WASHINGTON — We recently wrote about secret Pentagon plans to subvert the Vietnam cease-fire by substituting civilian experts for military advisers.

The preliminary agreement, which Henry Kissinger is going back to Paris to repair, called for a withdrawal of U. S. military advisers from Vietnam, but permitted defense suppliers to remain in the country to replace equipment.

The Pentagon, therefore, began making arrangements to keep military advisers in South Vietnam in the guise of defense suppliers.

This is a ruse the Pentagon has used elsewhere, we've learned, to conceal the true number of military advisers overseas. In Saudi Arabia, for instance, dozens of military experts in civilian clothes are advising the Saudis on everything from missile maintenance to jeep repairs.

The Bendix Field Engineering Corp. alone has recruited more than 100 military experts to serve in Saudi Arabia. They were hired off military bases to perform such functions as "inspection of all armament maintenance activity, both light and heavy" or assisting the "Saudi Arabian Army Ordnance Corps Logistics Operations Director in a logistical command including a headquarters and six support sites."

Once on the Bendix payroll, the retired officers discard their drab green uniforms, dress as businessmen and fly to Saudi Arabia carrying briefcases. Their salaries range from \$800 to \$2,000 a month, plus generous benefits.

The Raytheon Corp. has brought a host of missile experts to Saudi Arabia to teach the natives how to operate and maintain a multimillion-dollar Hawk missile system. At least two other giant U. S. corporations, Lockheed and

Northrop, also provide military assistance to Saudi Arabia.

A corporate spokesman, while acknowledging the existence of military contracts with Saudi Arabia, refused to discuss the details. Typical was the statement from the Northrop spokesman who said tersely: "We have been asked not to discuss our contracts, particularly our foreign military sales contracts."

The officer in charge of contracting at Saudi Arabia's military office said he had no "personal knowledge" of the contracts and could not name anyone who did.

Our own sources in the Pentagon told us the corporate military aid in Saudi Arabia is coordinated by a U. S. mili-

tary training mission, whose duties go far beyond training and deal with just about every aspect of military affairs.

**ILLEGAL DRAFT** — For years, the National Guard has been illegally drafting young Eskimos in Alaska. Under the law, the guard can accept only volunteers. But about four years ago, the local unit in Bethel, Alaska, fell behind in recruiting volunteers. An Eskimo village council member, who also happened to be a lieutenant in the guard, quietly began supplying the guard with names of "eligible" young Eskimos. Local recruiters selected gullible Eskimos from the list and signed them into the guard without informing them of their legal rights. One victim had read about his lottery number and knew it was above 200. But when the guard's recruiting sergeant told him the plane was coming for him, the young Eskimo dutifully climbed aboard. He later explained he thought the lottery didn't apply to him because he was an Eskimo. The guard never told him differently.

**AMERICAN IN LEBANON** — American Airlines uses the patriotism appeal to attract customers. It did not tell its customers, however, about sending a jet to Lebanon for major structural and engine work, thus cheating American workers out of jobs. The

Transport Workers Union, which is considering filing a grievance, tells us Lebanese workers are paid only about 28 cents an hour. Through Middle East Airlines, we've learned, American Airlines has promised to provide more work for the Lebanese.

**HICKMAN'S HOWL** — When we reported how the Treasury Department and the automakers had mishandled the return of excise taxes to new car-buyers, Treasury's Assistant Secretary Fred Hickman let out a howl. As evidence, we cited hundreds of letters from angry motorists who wrote to Ralph Nader and us about delayed payments. Hickman, nevertheless, tried to deny the charges in a misleading letter. Unable to get the letter circulated, he had the letter sent out at the taxpayers' expense to editors over the country through the Internal Revenue Service's district directors.