

Court Gags CIA

Aide Revelations

By Thomas B. Ross

WASHINGTON — (CST) — In a case with overtones of the Pentagon papers controversy, the Justice Department got a federal court yesterday to stop a former official of the Central Intelligence Agency from telling the public some of what he knows about the CIA.

U.S. District Judge Albert V. Bryan Jr. of Alexandria, Va., issued a temporary restraining order after the Justice Department filed a civil suit against the CIA official, Victor L. Marchetti, onetime executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA.

The department alleged that Marchetti planned to publish a magazine article

and a book, "Twilight of the Spooks," violating a signed agreement not to disclose secrets he learned while working for the CIA.

Read by Helms

The CIA director, Richard Helms, said he had read the article manuscript, obtained by a CIA agent in New York from a "confidential source" in the publishing world, and that it contained information that would compromise "currently classified intelligence sources and information."

However, others who have read the article said it was harmless, largely a compilation of some of the CIA's more exotic management and electronic practices. They contended it might make the agency look silly,

but would certainly not harm national security.

For example, the article reportedly recounts a CIA effort to implant bugging devices in a cat, which would then be trained to wander through parks picking up the conversations of suspects.

Withdrawn From Esquire

In any event, publishing sources in New York said, Marchetti had already decided not to publish the article and had withdrawn it from Esquire magazine.

The Justice Department statement said Marchetti also had sold a "non-fiction book," allegedly describing "CIA activities in detail."

It was learned that the New York publishing firm of Alfred A. Knopf has entered a \$40,000 contract with Marchetti, but that he has not yet written a word on the proposed book.

"Prior Restraint"

The case was viewed by a number of lawyers here as dealing with the principle of "prior restraint," the issue in the Justice Department's efforts to prevent the New York Times and other newspapers from publishing the Pentagon papers last summer.

After the newspapers were prevented from making their disclosures for two weeks, the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment of the Constitution prohibited such restraint. In the meantime, the Chicago Sun-Times and other newspapers had disclosed all the key points in the Pentagon papers without being challenged.