

C.I.A. Aides Report Security Watch On Staff Is Lax After Clearance

NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

JAN 3 1977

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2—Security specialists of the Central Intelligence Agency said today that Edwin G. Moore, a former agency employee, had been able to smuggle large amounts of secret materials out of the headquarters building because, once given a security clearance, employees of the agency were seldom subjected to future checks.

The agency's principal method of verifying loyalty and reliability remains the polygraph, which is used not only to verify the veracity and backgrounds of potential staff employees but also of possible foreign agents, the specialists said.

Mr. Moore, 56 years old, was apprehended Dec. 22 at his home in Bethesda, Md., after he deposited a package near a Soviet Embassy facility with a message purportedly offering to sell C.I.A. secrets for a large quantity of money.

The former employee retired in August 1973 after 22 years at the agency, mostly in mapmaking and logistics. In that time he allegedly assembled at his home eight large boxes of copies of agency documents, many of them in various categories of secrecy classification.

According to investigators, "at least one of the documents" was dated after Mr. Moore's retirement, suggesting the possibility that he might have obtained it from an associate still employed at the agency.

Mr. Moore, who is under treatment for a heart ailment, is being held on charges of theft and unauthorized possession of defense-related materials.

Asked to describe C.I.A. security proce-

dures, an intelligence official remarked, "Cleared is cleared." He added that unless an agency employee was detected making unusually large expenditures, beyond the scope of one's regular income, further security checks were extremely rare.

The official went on to say that employees of the Central Intelligence Agency were never subjected to body searches when they left the headquarters at McLean, Va., and that briefcases were inspected by door guards "only on a spot-check basis."

Another Administration official familiar with security procedures said that Government officials in sensitive areas were relatively free to make reproductions of classified materials. "There is no counter" on reproduction machines as an aid to security, he said.

The C.I.A. has refused to comment officially on the specific security aspects of the Moore case.

But George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, said today on the CBS television program "Face the Nation," "We have had a good record in terms of security internally over the years."

He termed the discovery of Mr. Moore's private collection of secret documents "an awful thing," and said the Central Intelligence Agency was taking care to see that it had "plugged any possible existing leaks."

"I don't think there are any," he added.

REMEMBER THE NEEDIEST