

U.S. Aide Says 3 Took Lie Detector Tests

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 22 — The State Department acknowledged today that three of its officers were given lie detector tests by Central Intelligence Agency personnel in 1971 at the request of the White House, as part of an Administration effort to curb news leaks.

The department said, in response to questions raised in the last two weeks by the Watergate scandals, that the polygraph tests were administered at the request of Egil Krogh Jr., formerly a White House adviser of criminal justice matters to John D. Ehrlichman, who recently resigned as President Nixon's chief domestic affairs adviser.

In 1971, Mr. Krogh was head of a so-called "plumbers" group, which was charged with investigating the sources of leaks of classified information.

Mr. Krogh has said that his group, which included G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, two of the Watergate burglars and conspirators, had tried to steal files from the office of

Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in September, 1971.

It was known in the summer of 1971 that an investigation had been conducted at the State and Defense Department to find the source of an article published by The New York Times on July 23, 1971, that provided in detail a new United States negotiating position at the talks on limiting strategic arms then going on.

Secretary of State William P. Rogers, in a news conference on Sept. 3, 1971, acknowledged that an investigation had taken place, and asked newsmen, "Is there anything wrong with investigating a crime when it occurs?"

But at that conference, he only talked about agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and refused to discuss whether lie detector tests were given. "Oh, I don't want to go into any investigative techniques," he said.

Today, in answer to repeated questions, John F. King, a department spokesman, said that as part of the investigation in late July, 1971, "the White House asked that three of our

people and one defense department employe undergo polygraphy and said that the C.I.A. would do it."

Mr. King said Mr. Rogers agreed with the White House request "on the understanding that the people concerned agreed voluntarily."

"This they did," he said, adding that the three men were cleared and were still working for the department. He refused to name the men.

The C.I.A. did the work, he said, because the late J. Edgar Hoover, then director of the F.B.I., did not permit his agency to give lie detector tests to employes of other Government agencies. Mr. King said that the State Department did not have the equipment or personnel for such work.

It was later learned that Mr. Krogh made the initial request to G. Marvin Gentile, director of the department's Office of Security.

When asked if the C.I.A. operation was in violation of the 1947 act creating the agency, Mr. King said, "That's a matter for the C.I.A. to address."

5-23-73

NYT