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Soviet Embassy Denies It Got Pentagon Papers

United Press International

The Soviet embassy denied yesterday it had been given copies of the Pentagon Papers in June, 1971.

The alleged leak, according to former White House aide Egil Krogh, was partly the reason the administration set up a special investigative unit that broke into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

The Washington Post quoted sources as saying an unidentified man, using an alias, had handed the Soviet embassy a complete set of the top-secret papers. An embassy spokesman called this "a fabrication."

"The embassy categorically denies these allegations as absolutely groundless," the statement said.

Krogh swore in an affidavit to U.S. District Court Judge Matt Byrne Jr. of Los

Angeles, who conducted the trial of Ellsberg, that he was told by the FBI that the Soviets had the papers.

Concern over the national security leak led to the setting up of the White House special investigative squad known as the "Plumbers," Krogh said. He headed the group.

According to The Post, administration sources said there was no evidence either Ellsberg or the newspapers to whom he gave copies of the Pentagon Papers had passed copies to the Soviets.

The Post said the Soviets received either an earlier 38-volume set or the final 47-volume set on June 16, 1971. It was the same day that a New York judge issued an order directing The New York Times to suspend publication of the papers.

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