

Military Spying in The White House



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PERHAPS we can shed more light on how Henry Kissinger and his military aides wound up spying on one another.

It grew out of the frustrations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff over President Nixon's obsessive secrecy. They were often kept in the dark about world moves which affected the Armed Forces.

To keep better informed, Admiral Thomas Moorer, the JCS chairman, set up his own pipeline into the White House. He received photocopies of documents that had been filched right out of Kissinger's secret files.

These were delivered by the Joint Chiefs' liaison officer at the White House, Rear Admiral Robert O. Welander, to Moorer's executive assistant, Captain Arthur K. Knoizen, who presumably turned them over to Moorer.

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KNOIZEN also circulated some of the documents to the other military chiefs. Nothing appeared in writing to indicate the documents had been copied from Kissinger's files. But sometimes Knoizen sent a cover memo warning of the "sensitivity" of the material.

Another Navy Officer, Captain Howard N. Kay, represented the Joint Chiefs at meetings of Kissinger's hushhush Washington special action group. Afterward, Kay submitted reports of the meetings, stamped "secret-sensitive," to Knoizen.

Separate sets of minutes, intended for the Pentagon's official use, were signed jointly by G. Warren Nutter, then an Assistant Defense Secretary, and James H. Noyes, a Deputy Assistant Secretary. But unknown to the civilian leaders, Kay's more detailed minutes were routed out-of-channel directly to the Joint Chiefs.

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IN DECEMBER 1971, we quoted from secret documents to prove that Mr. Nixon and Kissinger had lied to the American people about the U.S. role in the India-Pakistan conflict. This led to an intensive search for our sources by the President's undercover "Plumbers."

The investigation, directed by former Kissinger aide David R. Young Jr., utilized wiretaps, lie detectors and other quasi-legal tactics. But instead of uncovering our sources, the "Plumbers" stumbled upon the Pentagon spy ring.

Footnote: Captain Knoizen told us there had been absolutely nothing surreptitious nor sinister about the documents he received from the White House and circulated to the Joint Chiefs. Captain Kay acknowledged that he had written memos for the Joint Chiefs summarizing Kissinger's meetings. He insisted this was perfectly proper since he had been the "action officer" for the Joint Chiefs. Neither Welander nor Kissinger could be reached for comment, although Kissinger told us earlier he had no knowledge of Young's activities after he joined the "Plumbers."