

# Admiral Now Says He Saw 'Spy Files'

Washington

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reversed himself yesterday and acknowledged that he had received "a file" of unauthorized documents taken in 1971 from the offices of the National Security Council in the White House.

The nation's highest-ranking military officer described the material he had received as "just a collection of, you know, roughs and carbon copies, and things of that kind."

Spokesman for Moorer have been denying for a week that the admiral was involved in the military snooping ring.

Interviewed on the National Broadcasting Company's "Today" program, Moorer, in effect, confirmed published reports that the documents had been collected by a navy yeoman—previously identified as Charles E. Radford—and delivered to him by rear admiral Charles O. Welander. Both men, then assigned as liaison to the National Security Council, have been transferred to other posts.

The admiral, who refused later telephone calls, depicted the information provided by Radford and Welander as being of "no use to me" because it duplicated material already officially provided him by the White House.

The admiral's interview,

Back Page Col. 5

From Page 1

however, left unanswered a number of questions that have not been fully answered either by the White House or the Pentagon since reports of alleged military snooping first surfaced.

Reliable sources have told the New York Times that an investigation by the White House's "Plumbers" unit, led by David R. Young Jr. initially stumbled onto the

alleged military snooping operation while investigating the publication in December, 1971, of the highly classified India-Pakistan papers by columnist Jack Anderson.

Young, who is now under indictment for his rôle in the September 1971 Plumbers' burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist in Los Angeles, is known to have filed a lengthy report to President Nixon early in 1972 concluding that purloined National Security Council materials had been relayed to Moorer's office.

Young reportedly told a number of colleagues then that he had uncovered a military "spy ring."

It was this investigation, White House sources have confirmed, that was considered "so sensitive" by Mr. Nixon — as he said in a recent speech — that the president sought to order the justice department last spring to stop investigating the Plumbers activities for "national security" reasons.

Former aides to Henry Kissinger, now secretary of state, have freely acknowledged that much information regarding the administration's secret negotiations with China, the Soviet Union and North Vietnam was being deliberately kept from the Pentagon and state department throughout 1971, providing more than enough incentive — these aides said — for the military to begin snooping.

Young is known to have reported that some Kissinger's files were apparently ransacked and photographed. In addition, Kissinger was reliably thought to have become convinced that Radford, who accompanied him on the 1971 secret trip to China, photographed documents relating to that mission for Moorer's perusal.

Radford has denied the accusations.

In recent days, however, White House and Pentagon officials have attempted to minimize the snooping reports.

High White House officials, believed to be reflecting the view of J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., the President's counsel, have depicted YYoung's report as "ludicrous."

The Pentagon commented

that high officials there, who had looked into the incident, believed it was caused by "overzealousness and over-exuberance."

Moorer took a similar position during yesterday's interview. He rejected the allegation that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had been denied White House information and characterized the snooping allegations as "ridiculous" and "just a lie."

He described the documents forwarded to him by Welander as dealing with Vietnam, Cambodia, "et cetera," and added that because of the vast flow of papers crossing his desk, "I simply did not follow through as to the precise origin of these papers."

But the admiral also said, inexplicably, that "Subsequently when I learned of



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**ADMIRAL MOORER**  
**He reversed himself**

the full import of this matter, I directed Admiral Welander to return any such papers to the N.S.C. staff."

Moorer did not explain why, as he described them, copies of routine and ordinary documents provided by Welander and Radford had to be returned to the White House after he learned of the full import of the matter.

The transfer back to the White House apparently took place after the Young investigation had traced the material to the admiral's office.

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