

# Moorer Concedes He Received 'File' of Secret Security Papers

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged today that he had received "a file" of unauthorized documents taken in 1971 from the office of the National Security Council in the White House.

The nation's highest-ranking military officer, whose spokesmen have been denying for a week that the admiral was involved in a military snooping ring, described the material he had received as "just a collection of, you know, rough and carbon copies, and things of that kind."

Interviewed on the National Broadcasting Company's "Today" show, Admiral 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 Adm. Charles O. Welander. Both men were then assigned as liaison to the staff of Henry A. Kissinger, the President Nixon's national security adviser.

The admiral, who refused later telephone calls today, depicted the information provided by Yeoman Radford and Admiral Welander as being of "no

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use to me" because it duplicated material already officially provided him by the White House.

The full context of the admiral's television interview, however, left a number of questions that have not been fully answered by either the White House or the Pentagon since the reports of military prying first became public.

Reliable sources have told The New York Times that a White House "plumbers" investigation, led by David R. Young Jr., initially stumbled onto the military operation while investigating the publication in December, 1971, of the highly classified India-Pakistan papers by Jack Anderson, the columnist.

Mr. Young, who is now under indictment for his role in the September, 1971, plumbers' burglary of the office of the former psychiatrist of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg in Los Angeles, is known to have filed a long report to

Mr. Nixon early in 1972 concluding that the purloined National Security Council materials had been relayed to Admiral Moorer's office. Mr. Young told a number of colleagues then that he had uncovered a military "spy ring."

Former aides to Mr. Kissinger, who is now the 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 away from the Pentagon and the State Department throughout 1971, providing more than enough incentive—these aides said—for the military to begin undercover work.

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

In recent days, however, White House and Pentagon officials have attempted to minimize the reports of prying. High White House officials, believed

to be reflecting the view of J. Fred Buzhardt, the President's counsel, depicted Mr. Young's report as "ludicrous." The Pentagon noted that high officials there who had looked into the incident believed it had been caused by "overzealousness and overexuberance."

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

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

"In light of what's happened," he said, "I should have been more alert and followed through on the exact manner in which these papers were acquired."

But the admiral also said that "subsequently, when I learned of the full import of this matter, I directed Admiral Welander to return any such papers to the N. S. C. staff."

Admiral Moorer did not explain why, as he described them, copies of routine and ordinary documents provided by

Admiral Welander and Yeoman 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 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.

## Found to Be Source

Some former high-ranking Pentagon officials interviewed today also said that members of the personal staff of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs had been repeatedly admonished to limit the flow of official papers and documents to him. It was not immediately clear, therefore, why mundane N.S.C. documents, such as those described by Admiral Moorer in the interview, were personally hand-carried to him by Admiral Welander.

Another area of contradiction revolved around the status of Yeoman Radford, who is still on active duty with the Navy in Salem, Ore.

Admiral Moorer said in the interview that the yeoman had been found to be the source of leaks of classified material to Mr. Anderson.

"That was uncovered by Ad-



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miral Welander, who reported it to the N.S.C. staff; he reported it to me and I reported it to the Secretary of Defense," he said.

In the only White House statement on the matter this far, the Administration also indirectly named Yeoman Radford last week as the "source of these leaks . . . of extremely sensitive information of interest to other nations."

As has been widely noted, Yeoman Radford was not accused of any crime in connection with the alleged passing of national security documents to Mr. Anderson, nor was he discharged from the Navy. He was, however, transferred from liaison duty with the Security Council within a few weeks of publication of the India-Pakistan documents.

Reliable sources have also said that Admiral Welander's White House assignment was abruptly ended in early 1972 in connection with the Young investigation. The admiral's career was not adversely affected, however, and he is currently serving in a key operations job in the Pentagon.

## Reported as Agents

Sources said that Mr. Young had concluded in his report that both Admiral Welander and Yeoman Radford were serving, in effect, as agents for superiors in the Pentagon who wanted more information about the negotiations being conducted by Mr. Kissinger.

President Nixon was reported by The Chicago Tribune last week to have been ready to dismiss Admiral Moorer after learning of his role in the operation; instead, he reappointed him a few months later to a second two-year term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs.