

# Kissinger Denies Leak Probe Role

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Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said yesterday that his activity on the unauthorized disclosure of documents from his White House office to the Pentagon in late 1971 was limited to listening to one tape recording.

That tape, Kissinger said, was an interrogation of Rear Adm. Robert O. Welander, then head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff liaison office on Kissinger's National Security Council staff. It was Welander who first raised suspicion that the leak may have come from the liaison office, said Kissinger, and it was David Young, who previously had been Kissinger's personal aide, who interrogated Welander.

Young at the time was working for presidential assistant John D. Ehrlichman in the clandestine "plumbers" group to search out the sources of news leaks, but Kissinger said he was totally unaware of that. Kissinger said he was blocked from learning anything further about the inquiry on leaks of information to the Pentagon.

Kissinger told a press conference that the new informa-

tion he was disclosing is "fully consistent" with his statements "made under oath" to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in September during his confirmation hearings as Secretary of State. At that time he denied any knowledge of the "plumbers" or Young's work for that group.

Kissinger said yesterday that he has informed both Sen. J. Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, that he is prepared "to answer any questions that they might have on this subject." He answered some yesterday for newsmen, but then stopped, saying, "I have said all that I will say on this subject."

Kissinger is outraged by any report that associates him in any way with the scandals known as Watergate. While he was in the Middle East during the past two weeks, disclosures tumbled out from unidentified sources on the unauthorized distribution of docu-

See CHIEFS, A4, Col. 5

## CHIEFS, From A1

ments from Kissinger's White House office, plus one set of accusations that Kissinger authorized a counterspying operation on the Pentagon, which he strongly denied.

He told newsmen yesterday that he has "no reason to question" the explanation given last weekend by Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, about how improperly obtained documents from Kissinger's office reached Moorer's desk.

Kissinger noted that Moorer said, in substance, that this "reflected overzealousness on the part of subordinates, and, in any case, gave him (Moorer) no information that he did not already possess."

It was Ehrlichman, Kissinger emphasized, "who was in charge of all internal security investigations in the White House..."

Young and Ehrlichman are among those under indictment in the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding, in Beverly Hills, on Sept. 4, 1971, in an investigation of Ellsberg's disclosure of the Pentagon Papers on the Vietnam war.

In December, 1971, the publication by columnist Jack Anderson of documents on the meetings of the Washington Special Action Group on the India-Pakistan war, showing that President Nixon wanted U.S. policy to "tilt" toward Pakistan, aroused an intensive hunt for the leak, Kissinger recalled yesterday.

Welander, Kissinger said, told Alexander M. Haig Jr., then Kissinger's deputy, that he suspected the leak may have come from the military liaison office.

Kissinger said he was out of town and Haig turned the matter over to Ehrlichman. Kissinger said he was "amazed by this allegation" because "I had no reason to suppose, on the basis of my experience, that there was any conflict between the Joint Chiefs of Staff and my office."

He said that Ehrlichman later let him listen to a taped interrogation of Welander. When asked who had interrogated Welander, Kissinger replied, "I believe he was interrogated by David Young, but from this one could not suppose that David Young was conducting an investigation."

Kissinger said, "I had assumed that since we had sent Adm. Welander to Mr. Ehrlichman's office, Mr. Ehrlichman had designated one of his staff members to take whatever report Adm. Welander had to give."

"I repeat again," said Kissinger, "we were not told about either the investigation preceding it or the investigation following it, and I had no contact with David Young during that period."

When Kissinger was asked why he didn't find out the to-

tal results of the investigation, he replied, "Because I was told that I was not to be informed of it." When asked, "By whom were you told?" Kissinger replied, "I have said all that I will say on this subject."

Later, other sources said the instructions to Kissinger came from Ehrlichman.

Kissinger told the Foreign Relations Committee on Sept. 7 that David Young worked as his personal assistant and appointments secretary from about January, 1970 to June, 1971, when Young went to work for Ehrlichman. Kissinger said, "I had no contact with David Young" afterward and "I did not know from him or anyone else about the existence of the 'plumbers'... by this or any other name, or about his activities in connection with internal security matter."

Kissinger emphasized yesterday that he has no knowledge of a 40-page report said to have been prepared by Young on unauthorized transmission of NSC documents to the military.

Also, Kissinger noted, "no disciplinary action" has been taken over the affair.

However, after the allegations, Kissinger noted, "it was decided in consultation between Adm. Moorer and myself to close the liaison office attached to my staff." It previously has been disclosed that an aide to Welander, Navy Yeoman IC Charles E. Radford, was reportedly found to be making copies of National Security Council documents, and Radford's phone was tapped by the FBI. Radford has denied that he was the source of columnist Anderson's leak.