

Stennis Panel to Probe Document Shift

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The Senate Armed Services Committee decided yesterday to investigate the unauthorized funneling of secret White House documents to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1971

Committee Chairman John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) said it was decided to hear testimony by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and the chairman of the joint chiefs, Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, "as soon as possible on this matter."

In a statement issued after the closed-door meeting, Stennis said that after these two officials have been heard, "the committee will decide what further steps to take."

This leaves open whether the committee also will hear from several other figures central to allegations raised in recent weeks about a military spy ring operating within the Kissinger-run National Security Council that was bent on keeping the military brass informed about Kissinger's activity.

There was no mention in the Stennis statement of definite plans to ask Navy Yeoman 1/C Charles E. Radford to testify. Radford allegedly was involved in accumulating documents to be sent back to Adm. Moorer's office, and in passing material to columnist Jack Anderson.

Radford, who has denied these allegations, was transfer-

red but never punished. It remains unclear if the yeoman was simply "overzealous" in his duties, as has been alleged, or if he was ordered by superiors to use all methods to collect data.

Similarly, Radford's boss in the joint chiefs' White House liaison office, Adm. Robert O. Welander, was not mentioned, nor was former White House aide David Young.

Young was a member of the White House "plumbers" group formed to investigate news leaks and later, the military document-passing operation.

Young is also the author of a report that allegedly describes the liaison office operation as a military spy ring.

In a recent press conference, Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger said his own informal investigation indicated there had been some "improprieties" but not "illegalities" and no military "spy ring" operating.

Schlesinger indicated that while he had not read the Young report, the Pentagon's own investigation led him to believe the episode had "been blown out of all context" and that if Young had concluded there was a "spy ring," such a conclusion was wrong.

Yet the former chief of the plumbers, Egil (Bud) Krogh, said in Seattle last week that Schlesinger would not have made such remarks if the Pentagon chief had read the Young report.