

Start of Pentagon Spying

Washington

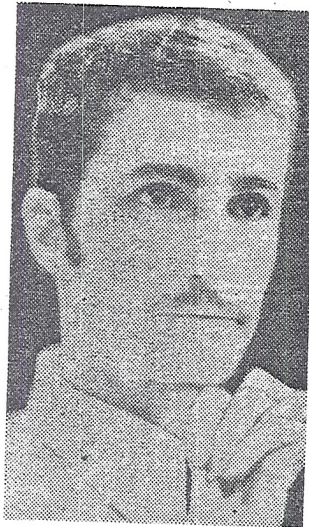
Military spying inside the White House began in the fall of 1970, a few months after Admiral Thomas H. Moorer became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and more than a year earlier than has been previously reported, closely involved sources said.

The spying involved as many as five high-ranking officers who regularly received and delivered over the next 15 months classified documents pilfered by a Navy yeoman, these sources said.

A New York Times investigation shows that the spying began within weeks after Yeoman first class Charles E. Radford was assigned in September 1970 to the military liaison unit set up by the Defense Department inside the National Security Council.

The sources said Radford confessed to Pentagon investigators in December 1971, shortly after he was suspected of leaking White House documents on the India-Pakistan war to columnist Jack Anderson, that he had begun pilfering documents more than a year earlier at the express direction of Rear Admiral Rembrandt C. Robinson.

Robinson, who was replaced in March 1971 by Rear Admiral Robert O. We-



CHARLES RADFORD
A leak suspect

lander in the military liaison position, was killed in a helicopter crash in Southeast Asia in 1972.

Radford has repeatedly denied leaking any material to Anderson.

Moorer's spokesman, Navy Captain J. C. Mackercher, issued the following statement after being informed of the Times' account:

"The Chairman's office has no comment on these charges any more than it has had on the innumerable other charges that have been made by unidentified sources."

As chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Moorer is a statutory member of the National Security Council.

The documents and materials in question, however, were explicitly denied to his office and to high officials in the State Department on the orders of Henry Kissinger and President Nixon.

Since the allegations of military spying first became public more than two weeks ago, high-ranking officers in the White House and Pentagon have repeatedly referred to it as the work of two "overzealous" men—a reference to Welander and Radford—who were taking documents in an effort to please their superior, Moorer.

Moorer, after first denying any knowledge of the military spying, conceded on January 18 that he had received "a file" of unauthorized material that he publicly depicted as "just a collection of, you know, roughs and carbon copies, and things of that kind."

Meanwhile, Senator Harold Hughes (Dem.-Iowa) called for public hearings by the Senate Armed Services Committee into the case.

In an unusual public break with Senator John Stennis (Dem.-Miss.) the committee chairman, Hughes criticized the announced committee

plans to summon Moorer and Kissinger to a closed hearing Wednesday.

"No, once-over-lightly in executive session with Admiral Moorer or Kissinger is going to suffice," Hughes said. "There's going to have to be a thorough staff investigation into this and every witness who's been mentioned thus far should be called."

Hughes, who was instrumental in last summer's committee investigation of the secret B-52 bombing of Cambodia, said he will urge the committee to summon as witnesses Radford as well as David R. Young Jr., the former White House "plumber" who wrote a report on the military spying in early 1972.

"It's the job of the Armed Services Committee to do this in its oversight capacity," Hughes said. "The stakes are very high here. This involves the ability of the chief executive and his advisers to be in command of an operation and to keep to themselves whatever information they have."

"If we did anything less than a thorough investigation," he said, "I believe we would not be doing our job for the Senate and the country."

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