

# MOORER CONCEDES HE GOT DOCUMENTS

## Tells Senate Unit He Twice Received Unauthorized Kissinger Material

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Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has acknowledged to the Senate Armed Services Committee that twice in 1971 he knowingly received documents that a Navy clerk had "retained" while traveling to Asia and Southeast Asia with President Nixon's top national security advisers.

Admiral Moorer also disclosed that he was told in late 1971 that the clerk, Yeoman 1st Cl. Charles E. Radford, "had not only been retaining papers in the course of his clerical duties but, also, had been actively collecting them in a clearly unauthorized manner."

The statements by the admiral were made in a letter to Senator John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, the committee chairman.

### Confirmation of Reports

The letter confirmed the most significant allegation made since the first reports of the alleged military snooping—That documents were taken from the private files of Henry A. Kissinger and Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. while they traveled on secret negotiating trips.

The letter also confirmed that military personnel assigned to the White House were actively seeking to pilfer national security documents not intended for the Pentagon.

Mr. Kissinger, then President Nixon's national security adviser, is now Secretary of State. General Haig, then the chief deputy to Mr. Kissinger, is now the White House chief of staff.

In his letter, Admiral Moorer again asserted that he had given "no orders, no instructions and no encouragement" to anyone regarding the alleged military spying. Such activities were unneeded, he said, because he had easy access to Mr. Kissinger and "never had the feeling of isolation from information."

Admiral Moorer challenged the supposition that he and other defense chiefs were being kept in the dark about certain White House military decisions and diplomatic moves.

### Testimony by Kissinger

He said that he frequently

discussed secret operations in Indochina with President Nixon, helped Mr. Kissinger plan all his secret trips to China, and had discussions with Mr. Kissinger on arms limitations negotiations, "including contact from Moscow during the June, 1972, summit."

Today the Senate Foreign Relations Committee released testimony Mr. Kissinger gave in closed session last week dealing with David R. Young Jr. A former Kissinger aide on the National Security Council, Mr. Young helped investigate the military snooping at the White House.

Mr. Kissinger again asserted that he had known nothing of Mr. Young's activities in the White House "plumbers" group, set up to stop leaks of national security information. This time the Secretary based his denial in part on his office logs, which he said demonstrated that "I never saw David Young after he left my staff."

A copy of Admiral Moorer's seven-page letter was made available today to The New York Times. The admiral is scheduled to testify tomorrow in executive session before the Armed Services Committee, which has begun an inquiry into the allegations of snooping.

### Court-Martial Urged

In his letter, Admiral Moorer also disclosed that in late 1971 he personally recommended to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird and J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., then general counsel at the Pentagon, that court-martial proceedings be initiated against Yeoman Radford for his role in purloining the White House documents.

"I was, however, advised," Admiral Moorer wrote, "that no disciplinary proceedings were to be conducted and that it had been decided by the civilian leadership that Yeoman Radford was to be immediately transferred. I accepted these orders and directed my staff to implement them without delay."

Former Secretary Laird denied to reporters last week that he had "officially" acted to prevent the court-martial of Yeoman Radford but said that he might have remarked, "If you don't have firm evidence, don't go to trial."

About the same time he first learned of the full scope of Yeoman Radford's activities, Admiral Moorer wrote, he ordered his aides to return all unauthorized documents in his office files to the National Security Council staff. "Acting on those instructions," the admiral said, "all such papers were returned."

### Statement Contradicted

Elsewhere in the letter, the admiral repeatedly sought to minimize the significance of the materials provided him by Yeoman Radford, noting that the documents he received "did not stimulate close attention to me because they contained no new information."

The admiral did not explain in his letter why, if the material provided had been insignificant, he had sought to have Yeoman Radford court-martialed had also deemed it important to order the documents returned to the White House.

Furthermore, the admiral's statement contradicted his only previous public statements as to the importance of the documents provided to him and the method of their collection.

### Report by Young

In a television interview on Jan. 18, the admiral twice described the material provided him by Yeoman Radford as "just a collection of, you know, roughs and carbon copies, and things of that type." He also specifically rejected the suggestion that the material had been clandestinely collected, telling his interviewer "This young man has just engaged in typing many, many documents. And he just assembled a file of the documents he typed."

The New York Times reported Sunday that "eyes only" messages and other highly secret communications intended solely for Mr. Kissinger and President Nixon had been routinely funneled by Yeoman Radford to Admiral Moorer from September, 1970, when the yeoman began his White House assignment, to December, 1971. As many as five senior joint staff officers were involved in clandestinely receiving and delivering those documents, The Times said.

An extensive report on the military snooping is known to have been assembled by Mr. Young, one of those indicted in Los Angeles in the September, 1971, burglary of the office of the former psychiatrist of Daniel Ellsberg, who has said he gave the press the secret Pentagon papers on the history of the Vietnam War.

### Pentagon Inquiry Made

Reliable sources have said that the Young report, which has not been made public, concluded that Admiral Moorer played an active role in the military snooping operation.

In his letter, Admiral Moorer twice said that he had not been provided either the Young report or a separate inquiry reportedly made by the Pentagon at the direction of Mr. Buzhardt, who is now a White House counsel.

Admiral Moorer wrote that, "to the best of my memory," the two batches of documents he received had been provided him by Rear Adm. Robert O. Welander, who headed the military liaison office in the Na-

tional Security Council, headed by Mr. Kissinger.

The first delivery, the admiral said, was made in July, 1971, shortly after Yeoman Radford completed a trip to Southeast Asia, Pakistan and Paris with Mr. Kissinger. It was on that trip that Mr. Kissinger, accompanied by only a few aides, made his first visit to China. Yeoman Radford and most of Mr. Kissinger's personal staff were left behind in Pakistan.

Admiral Moorer said that by the time he received these documents he had already met, on July 16, with President Nixon and Mr. Kissinger at San Clemente, Calif., to discuss the China trip.

The second delivery of unauthorized White House documents, Admiral Moorer wrote, was made in September, 1971, and involved reports stemming from a visit to South Vietnam by General Haig.

"These papers had been overtaken by events," Admiral Moorer wrote, "and again, I did not scrutinize them as to their content or precise origin. I want to stress that these papers were provided me by a staff officer in a routine manner."

Other closely involved sources have told The Times, however, that a number of sensitive "eyes only" messages were transmitted to Mr. Nixon during Mr. Kissinger's July visits to Saigon, Peking and Paris and General Haig's September visit to Saigon.

### Secret Peace Offer

In July, the sources said, the secret Kissinger negotiating efforts in Paris with Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam produced a secret peace offer. General Haig, in September, reliable sources said, spent hours consulting with President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam about the secret peace talks.

"Eyes only" cables were sent daily by General Haig to Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger, these sources said. Those cables, typed by Yeoman Radford, were sent through secure Central Intelligence Agency communications to keep them away from the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the top echelon of the State Department.

Many of these cables, highly reliable sources said, were provided to Admiral Moorer's office by Yeoman Radford.

Yeoman Radford and Admiral Welander were both transferred in the aftermath of the investigations, but the admiral has since been reassigned to a key Navy post in the Pentagon.