



Typing error exposed Pentagon spying

By Thomas B. Ross
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WASHINGTON — A minor typing error by a Navy clerk led to the discovery of military spying inside the White House, according to still-secret testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The clerk, yeoman Charles E. Radford, was accused on the basis of the error of leaking top secret documents to the press. A further investigation revealed he was involved in the unauthorized transfer of Henry Kissinger's private papers to the Pentagon.

The startling chain of events was laid out for the committee behind closed doors Wednesday in testimony by Kissinger and Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Committee sources said Kissinger's and Moorer's testimony traced the following sequence of events in the explosive case:

In December, 1971, Radford took a memo from his boss, Rear Adm. Robert O. Welandar, the liaison officer between Kissinger's National Security Council staff and Moorer's JCS staff. The memo, outlining possible U.S. military

moves in the India-Pakistan war, was based on Kissinger's instructions to the Washington Special Action Group, the minutes of whose meetings had been routinely circulated to Welandar.

In transcribing the memo, Radford made a typing error that Welandar noticed later. Subsequently, columnist Jack Anderson published a series of articles quoting the WSAG minutes. One of his columns contained the same error that was in Radford's transcription.

Welandar spotted the coincidence and went to Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., then Kissinger's chief assistant, to alert him to the fact that Radford was probably the source of the embarrassing India-Pakistan leaks.

On Kissinger's orders, Haig turned the matter over to John D. Ehrlichman, who was then in charge of internal security in the White House. Ehrlichman directed the security "plumbers" to investigate.

The plumbers discovered that Radford was, like Anderson, a Mormon and that the two men attended the same church in Washington. Radford, then 28, had also served in India and was thought to have developed strong pro-Indian sympathies, such that he might have

been angered by the WSAG minutes which showed that President Nixon was "tilting" toward Pakistan while publicly proclaiming neutrality.

That, and the coincidence of error in the Welandar memo and the Anderson column, led the plumbers to conclude that Radford was guilty. In the process of interrogating Radford and Welandar, the plumbers also learned that the two had been funneling other of Kissinger's papers to the JCS.

In other words, in fingering Radford in the Anderson leak, Welandar unwittingly implicated himself in the larger leak to the Pentagon.irate, Kissinger ordered the military liaison office closed and had Welandar and Radford shipped out of Washington.

The plumbers' report — which has been withheld by Nixon's White House counsel from Kissinger, Moorer and the committee—is said to have accused Moorer of being knowingly involved in the spying activities.

The plumbers reportedly charged that Radford rifled Kissinger's briefcase during the return trip from his first visit to China in 1971. Radford also was accused of lifting Haig's papers on a trip later that year to Southeast Asia.