

Yeoman Tells Hill Of Spy Training

By Michael Getler
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Yeoman 1C Charles E. Radford testified yesterday that he was carefully trained and instructed by two admirals working in the White House to gather any information "I could get my hands on" during three secret and sensitive trips with Henry A. Kissinger and then-Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. in 1970 and 1971.

Radford is a central figure in allegations of the unauthorized collection of top-secret documents by the White House liaison office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and passage of those documents to the chairman of the joint chiefs, Adm. Thomas H. Moorer.

The yeoman's testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee implicates Radford's former bosses in the liaison office, Adm. Rembrandt C. Robinson, who died

in 1972, and Adm. Robert O. Welander. Radford said they asked him to gather information with the warning: "Don't get caught."

The yeoman's testimony, which was taken behind closed doors, and a copy of the formal statement publicly released later, also implied that Adm. Moorer at least knew what was going on.

On two occasions after these trips, Radford said, aides to Moorer—Capt. Harry D. Train and Capt. Arthur K. Knoizen—told him: "Radford, you do good work."

"He (Capt. Train) didn't say any more than that and kept walking through the office smoking his pipe. Since I had just returned from the second trip with Gen. Haig and given Adm. Robinson much information, I knew what the captain was talking about."

See RADFORD, A22, Col. 1



Associated Press

Yeoman Charles Radford leaves Senate committee room.

RADFORD, From A1

At another point, Radford said, after returning from Kissinger's Asian trip in 1971 at which secret negotiations with China were begun, "Capt.

Knoizen walked through the office and said: 'Radford, keep up the good work.' I knew what he meant. Nothing else was said."

The quest for information as described by Radford tends to dispute claims by both Kissinger and Moorer that the White House and the Joint Chiefs of Staff kept each other fully informed through authorized channels about all important matters during a period of major but secret shifts in U.S. policy.

Radford, 30, admitted to some personal "concern" about what he was doing, but added: "All the time I was following the directions and advice of my superiors I felt like I was doing what I did for the good of the service.

"At no time," he said, "did I feel that the decision as to whether or not to do as I was told or asked was mine to make. I did not feel the decision was moral or immoral," he concluded. "It was non-moral, and certainly not illegal."

The Senate committee's investigation was prompted by concern both about maintaining civilian control of the military and about the withholding of information by civilians from top-level military officials.

Some committee members had sought to hold open hearings. But this was overruled in favor of making censored transcripts available within

days of each hearing, and with each witness allowed to publicly release a formal statement, as Radford did yesterday.

Moorer has steadfastly contended that he gave "no orders, instructions and encouragement, either direct or implied to Yeoman Radford or to anyone else" to collect anything in an irregular manner.

Moorer also said he had never "accepted" any such information. Later he conceded that "two batches" of information were received but said he paid little attention to them and their origin since they contained no information he didn't already have.

Moorer has described Radford's activities as "overexuberance." Kissinger though admitting outrage when first learning that verbatim notes of a conversation with Chinese Premier Chou En-lai were passed on to Moorer, also said he eventually calmed down and described Radford's efforts not as a conspiracy but as an attempt to win "brownie points" with his superiors.

Welander is to testify before the committee today.

In a 23-page statement Radford told yesterday how Robinson carefully groomed him to be "low key" so as not to attract attention, to spot things of interest, copy papers whenever possible, and remember things by "key word"

associations. Radford said he "admired" Robinson as an efficient boss.

"He made it clear that my loyalty was to him . . . and that I wasn't to speak outside of the office about what I did in the office. He further stated that he worked directly for the chairman and that it was his responsibility to keep the chairman informed and that I was to help him do this."

On his assignment as a stenographer to accompany Haig to Vietnam in December, 1970, Radford said, he was asked to look for information on U.S. troop cuts, any agreement between the White House and South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu, conversations between Haig and U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Emory Swank and Cambodian leader Lon Nol. "This I did," Radford said. "These included 'eyes-only' messages, both sent and received" by Haig.

Before a second trip with Haig early in 1971, Radford said, Robinson again told him what to look for "and this time I was cautioned several times not to take any chances."

Radford told how copies of secret documents were "sanitized" before they were distributed, by cutting off any symbol that would indicate the origin.

By the time of Kissinger's secret July, 1971, mission to Asia, which was to wind up in China, Welander had replaced Robinson.