

# Ex-Colonel Tells of Pentagon 'Spying'

## Washington

A former aide to the joint chiefs of staff said yesterday that Rear Admiral Robert O. Welander routinely provided key joint staff officers with illicitly obtained White House documents in the last half of 1971.

James A. MacDonald of Dallas, a retired Marine Corps colonel, said in a telephone interview that he had been handed at least four such documents by Welander and — after obtaining whatever information was desired, if any — returned them directly to the office of Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

The documents he was given, MacDonald said, provided the Pentagon with advance information on pending high-level White House and National Security Council meetings with President Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger, then Mr. Nixon's chief adviser for security affairs.

"This didn't bother my conscience," the former officer said. "I had no feeling that we were being devious or anything like that." He said that most of the information contained in Welander's memorandums was officially provided to Moorer at some later point.

"Maybe the admiral didn't know all this at 11 a.m.," MacDonald said, "but he'd get it anyway at 3 p.m."

MacDonald's assertions sharply contradicted the recent testimony of Moorer and Welander, both of whom have denied any knowledge of the unauthorized passing of documents except in two cases.

MacDonald said most of the White House documents he saw were critical of, or questioning about, military policies and recommendations due to be debated at later high-level meetings. His function was to prepare answers to the anticipated queries in advance, MacDonald said.

The former officer added that he had never been permitted to keep the documents in his personal safe but unstead pinned the required answers to the original White House document "and either gave it back to Welander or sent it directly into the admiral's (Admiral Moorer's) office."

Moorer testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 6

that he had received two batches of materials after Yeoman First Class Charles E. Radford, then assigned to the White House liaison office with Welander, traveled to the Far East and Southeast Asia in mid-1971 with Kissinger and his chief deputy on the National Security Council, General Alexander M. Haig Jr.

In his testimony before the committee Thursday, Welander acknowledged that he had forwarded to Moorer two batches of material that he said had been "offered" to him by Radford. Hundreds of other documents did flow in "eyes only" envelopes from his White House office to the Pentagon office of Moorer, Welander testified, but — contrary to Radford's assertions — "it was an authorized flow of information . . . documents were not to my knowledge 'stolen' or 'purloined'."

MacDonald also confirmed some of Radford's Senate testimony. The former colonel acknowledged that, as Radford had told the Senate, the material handed to him by Welander had been "sanitized" — that is, stripped of all identification marking to prevent tracing.

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