

Military Snooping 'A 2-Way Street'

Washington

While the military was allegedly snooping on the White House in 1970 and 1971, the White House was also receiving some sensitive information on Pentagon activities without the knowledge of the Secretary of Defense, according to reliable sources.

"It was a two-way street," says one well-placed informant, except that the latter operation was authorized but highly "unorthodox."

In contrast to the pilfering of secret White House documents from briefcases and "burn bags" by a Navy yeoman acting either on his own or under orders, the other operation involved a high-level information-passing arrangement, set up by the White House, involving the President's national security adviser, Henry Kissinger, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Thomas H. Moorer.

Although the civilian Secretary of Defense is the immediate superior to the Joint Chiefs, there is technically a provision under law for a direct channel, under certain circumstances, between the chiefs and the President or his national security adviser.

The manner in which this "channel" was occasionally used during the period after Moorer became chairman in July, 1970, is known to have upset former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird and his top deputy, David Packard, when they became aware of it.

Some studies made under

Sakharov On Soviet Prisoners

Moscow

Dissident Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov said yesterday that 1.7 million prisoners are still held in Soviet forced labor and innumerable others are in internal exile.

In a 30-page statement made available to newsmen here, Sakharov said the preservation of the camp system is the reason foreigners are not allowed in vast parts of the Soviet Union.

"It would appear that the realization of any successful international cooperation in developing our very rich resources is impossible without the abolition of this system," he said.

Sakharov called on the International Red Cross and other organizations to "abandon their policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of the socialist countries as regards human rights."

Associated Press

Laird's orders by the Joint Chiefs were forwarded to Kissinger, according to reliable sources, before Laird had made any decisions about what material to send to the White House.

Both Laird and Packard, at certain meetings with the Kissinger-run National Security Council, became aware

that Kissinger was "working" from Pentagon material that neither of the two top civilians had provided.

Primarily, the material involved Pentagon civilian and military views on Vietnam withdrawal policy, an area where there are known to have been important differences between Laird, on the one hand, and the White House and military hierarchy on the other.

Similarly, material to the NSC was passing through the White House Liaison Office maintained by the Joint Chiefs beyond the levels which informants say Laird was aware of.

The former defense secretary is known to have strongly favored closing down that office even before it was shut by the White House after it was fingered in December, 1971, as the center for both the military snooping and leaks to columnist Jack Anderson.

It has been acknowledged that the phone of Laird's military aide, General Robert E. Pursley, was tapped for more than a year, but investigators say the precise reason why and by whom this was done remains unclear.

They speculate that Pursley, who also at one time worked for former defense chief Robert S. McNamara, quarters in the White House of still passing information back to McNamara. Sources say there was, in general, a suspicion within the White House that much of the career civil service in fact was retaining its ties to former Democratic administrations.

Washington Post