

Kleindienst Works As Algerian Counsel

By Robert Gruenberg
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Former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst is employed by the Algerian government as a \$120,000-a-year representative to look after that nation's interests in the United States.

Kleindienst, 51, now a lawyer in private practice here since his resignation in April, 1973, serves as "legal counsel for business circles, congressional relations and relations with the various official government bodies in Washington, D.C., and the rest of the United States," according to



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documents on file in the Justice Department foreign agents registration unit.

Kleindienst confirmed the nature of his duties when queried by The Chicago Daily News.

He pointed out that Algeria, one of the most important oil- and gas-producing countries, has maintained no diplomatic relations with the United States since the 1967 Arab-Israeli 5-day war.

In addition to his salary, he is entitled to a \$24,000 yearly expense account, and in a report filed for the first half of 1974, Kleindienst said he spent \$6,226.

The money went mostly for expenses in connection with the visit to the United States of the Algerian minister of industry and energy in December, 1973, and the visit of the United States and the United Nations of Algerian President Houari Boumedienne in April, 1974.

According to correspondence in the Justice Department file between Kleindienst and the oil minister, the arrangement for representation was made in a September, 1973, meeting by the former Attorney General with the Arab official five months after Kleindienst left the government. The agreement, by letter, is to run for a year, but with a 30-day cancellation privilege on the part of Belaid Abdesselam, the oil minister.

In a telephone interview, Kleindienst said he helped provide the opportunities "for members of Congress or the executive branch of government "to learn about Algerian energy policies in person-to-person meetings." He could not recall immediately, he said, the names of the U.S. officials he helped Abdesselam meet.

Kleindienst, who said he had visited Algeria six times, spoke highly of the North African nation.

Although a dedicated Republican who was 1964 presidential campaign manager for Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.), he praised what he pointed out is a socialist country, asserting—among other things—that it had 75 per cent of its children in school and a balanced budget.

Kleindienst said that he represented Algerian interests "jointly" with former Defense Secretary Clark Clifford.

Clifford, through an aide, acknowledged that his law firm here, Clifford, Warncke, Glass, McIlwain and Finney, was "retained five years ago by the Algerian government," and looked after American corporate interests there.

The spokesman said that both Clifford and Kleindienst were retained by Sonatrach, an Algerian government-owned gas and oil firm. Clifford is not listed as an Algerian government representative by the Justice Department, and a Clifford aide—when asked about it—replied: "It's all one—what's the difference? You're splitting hairs."