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A former senior Pentagon investigator said last week that he was ordered to "establish" that syndicated columnist Jack Anderson had a homosexual relationship with a suspected news source even though there was no reason to believe that one existed.

W. Donald Stewart, who was in charge of an investigation into news leaks in late 1971, said the order was given to him by David Young, the Nixon administration official in charge of the "plumbers," the White House unit created in July, 1971, to investigate news leaks.

Stewart said in an interview that Young wanted him to show that Anderson and Navy Yeoman Charles Radford, who worked in

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the National Security Council, had a homosexual relationship.

"I refused the order," Stewart said. "Young told me he wanted me to develop and prove that there was a homosexual relationship between Jack Anderson and Radford."

Stewart said he refused because the nature of the order was "not to see what might be there, but to insure that I found a homosexual relationship."

Stewart said that Young got very upset when he refused the order. "This came from the President," Stewart quoted Young as saying. "It's the President's order." rancisco

n bree Stewart said he still refused the order.

There is no evidence that Anderson had a homosexual relationship with Radford or anyone else.

According to Stewart, Young issued the order the morning of Dec. 23, 1971, at the height of a joint White House-Pentagon investigation of Anderson. The columnist was publishing sensitive national security information in his newspaper column.

Neither Young, who is out of the country, nor his attorney, could be reached for comment.

The Watergate special prosecutor and the Senate intelligence committee are currently investigating allegations that Watergate conspirator E Howard Hunt Jr. was ordered by a senior White House official in late 1971 to assassinate Anderson.

Hunt has said publicly that he never planned to assassinate Anderson; but did devise several plans to drug him.

Three separate sources have told the Washington Post that Hunt told them in 1972 that he was specifically ordered to kill Anderson.

Stewart, who said he knew of no proposal to kill Anderson, nonetheless said that former President Nixon and other White House officials were willing to do just about anything else to stop Anderson.

Washington Post