

SF Examiner

SEP 12 1972

U.S. Court Backs CIA Oath

RICHMOND (Va.) — (AP) — The fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the Central Intelligence Agency has the right to impose a secrecy oath on its employees, but has limited

the scope of the oath to classified matters.

The decision yesterday involved in effort by a former CIA employe, Victor L. Marchetti, to remove himself from the oath so he can pub-

lish a book about the intelligence agency. Marchetti resigned three years ago after working 14 years for the CIA.

Last May, U.S. District Court Judge Albert V. Bryan

Jr. of Alexandria granted the U.S. government an injunction barring Marchetti from publishing information about the CIA.

Basing his ruling on secrecy oaths signed by Marchetti

when he joined the CIA and when he left, Bryan ruled Marchetti would have to submit any information about the CIA to the agency for approval at least 30 days in advance of any publication date.

The appeals court, in a 3-0 decision written by Chief Judge Clement F. Haynsworth Jr., upheld the lower court, saying the secrecy oaths are legal and constitutional contracts.