

Benefits Multiply Joint Chiefs' Wages

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

The top military brass like to believe they are serving their country at great sacrifice. The prevailing myth is that they are paid far less than they could earn in the corporate world.

This is an argument that invariably is dragged out when there is pressure to reduce military spending. We have investigated the impoverishment, therefore, of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Each draws a \$36,000 annual salary which, compared to corporate wages, seems modest enough. But this is merely the tip of the pecuniary iceberg. They also collect a generous share of the \$650 million in tax-free benefits that go to the military brass each year.

The taxpayers, for example, provide the Joint Chiefs with pocket money. Each one draws an annual "personal money allowance" of \$4,000, plus another \$600 to cover "the-to-day" expenses.

Unlike most corporate executives, the Joint Chiefs need not concern themselves with monthly housing payments. The government furnishes them with magnificent mansions suitable to their status.

For example, Gen. George S. Brown, the Joint Chiefs chairman, occupies a handsome, 12-room brick home that would rent on the Washington market for about \$750 a month.

Such cavernous houses, of course, require upkeep. The Pentagon has never been so short of manpower that troops could not be spared from military duties to wait on tables, mow lawns and perform other menial chores for the top brass.

Each military chief is allotted five "enlisted aides," as these personal servants are delicately called. Only Gen. David C. Jones, the Air Force chief, doesn't utilize his full quota. He now gets by with only four enlisted servants.

This doesn't count the chauffeurs, of course, who are available to drive the Joint Chiefs around in government limousines wherever they wish to go.

Nor does a member of the Joint Chiefs need to worry about making plane reservations when he travels. A plane from the VIP squadron is available to whisk him anywhere in the world at his command.

If he should wish to take his family along on a vacation, the Defense Department maintains several posh resorts around the world where the military brass can stay at bargain rates.

A \$20 million complex is under construction in Hawaii, for example, for the "rest and relaxation" of weary servicemen. The Joint Chiefs, of course, can always reserve the best quarters at these holiday resorts.

Other innumerable little benefits have become part of the lifestyle of the Joint Chiefs—such

as subsidized Pentagon meals and golfing, swimming, tennis and drinking facilities at bases throughout the world.

What's more, the Joint Chiefs will go on drawing full benefits and 75 per cent of their pay after they retire. Yet they contribute not a cent to their retirement fund.

Experts have calculated for us that the taxpayers pay each of the Joint Chiefs not the paltry \$36,000 that our military leaders complain about but an equivalent of about \$200,000 a year.

Makarios Plot—More than four years ago, we reported that the Central Intelligence Agency had become involved in the dirty business of assassinating foreign leaders. We described six attempts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, complete with the names of the CIA agents and the Mafia figures they recruited to handle the job.

Our story was denied and denounced by CIA spokesmen. But the Rockefeller commission has now uncovered evidence, which completely confirms our story.

We have also reported that the CIA was in contact with the plotters who gunned down Dominican Dictator Rafael Trujillo and attempted to murder Haitian President Francois (Papa Doc) Duvalier.

Now in investigative study by one of the best reporters in the business, Laurence Stern, links the CIA with an assassination attempt upon Archbishop Ma-

karious, the president of Cyprus. Stern's report will be published soon in the prestigious Foreign Policy magazine.

As Stern recounts it, Cypriot House Speaker Glafkos Clerides confronted the U.S. embassy with the charge that Eric Neff, the former CIA chief in Cyprus, had held a secret meeting in Athens with Cypriot Nikos Sampson, whose strongarm activities have been documented.

Both Neff and Sampson were known to be opposed to Makarios. Indeed, "Makarios privately complained to the U.S. embassy at Neff's open hostility to Makarios," Stern reports.

Subsequently, Sampson overthrew Makarios and put out a premature radio bulletin that the archbishop had been killed. Sampson's strongarm men, it is believed, tried to murder Makarios, who had a narrow escape.

Neff could not be reached for comment.

Footnote: Stern reports that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was awakened early one morning during the Cyprus crisis by Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit. The Turkish leader complained that a Greek ship was flying Turkish flags to confuse Ecevit's air force. Nancy Kissinger sleepily told her husband, according to Stern: "Why don't you tell him to shut up and sink the goddamn thing?"

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