

Rusk Will Set Rules for Reports on Travelers

Miss Knight Defends Sending a F.B.I. Request Abroad— Calls It 30-Year Policy

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 25— Secretary of State Dean Rusk said today that he was conducting a personal investigation into the reporting by United States embassies on the activities of American citizens traveling abroad.

According to Frances G. Knight, head of the Passport Office, requests for such reports by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies have been passed on to embassies as "a matter of routine" for 30 years.

Mr. Rusk told a news conference today that he was "not satisfied that our present procedures are exactly what they ought to be."

He said that he would review the procedures with Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, and that the two Cabinet officers would establish "criteria" governing the transmission of requests by investigatory agencies for reports on Americans abroad.

Miss Knight Replies

Reached by telephone today, Miss Knight said:

"If they want to change the policy, all the department has to do is give me some instructions. I don't know what they intend to do about it."

The question arose as the result of an article in The New York Times last Wednesday telling of airgrams sent to the Paris and Moscow embassies on March 8 concerning H. Stuart Hughes, a Harvard history professor who plans a European trip during his sabbatical leave next fall.

The messages said that Professor Hughes "reportedly in the past has had strong convictions toward Communism," and asked that any "pertinent information" received about his activities be forwarded.

It was this characterization of Professor Hughes's political views that obviously disturbed Secretary Rusk.

"I can tell you quite frankly," he told reporters today, "I don't believe that we ourselves, or anyone else, should be transmitting broad unevaluated information which has not been subjected to a real judgment as a matter of policy here in Washington."

Speaks of Rights

He said that he was sure "the Attorney General agrees with me that we must give every protection to the legitimate rights and privileges of American citizens in their travels abroad."

Miss Knight said today that the passport office had no investigative powers, and had "never" initiated requests for information but simply transmitted those of investigative agencies.



Associated Press Wirephoto

Frances G. Knight, head of State Department's Passport Office, takes break from painting job at home to answer questions about orders to watch U.S. citizens abroad.

Miss Knight gave the following chronology of events in the developing controversy between herself and Philip B. Heymann, acting director of the Bureau of Security and consular affairs, in which the Passport Office is located.

Clearance Required

Following the dispatch of the March 8, airgrams, which had been signed in her name by a subordinate, Miss Knight said, Mr. Heymann spoke to her, saying that such messages should be cleared with him. He brought the matter up again at a staff meeting on March 11, Miss Knight said.

On both occasions, Miss Knight said, Mr. Heymann was told that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had requested the dispatch of the airgrams, since he had apparently assumed she had acted on her own authority. She said the date of the written bureau's request was Feb. 6.

On March 14, Mr. Heymann sent Miss Knight a memorandum stamped "confidential." He said it was of great importance that investigative responsibilities not be assumed without the request of an authorized agency.

On March 16, airgrams were sent to Paris and Moscow rescinding the earlier requests for information on Professor Hughes.

Angry About 'Rebuke'

Miss Knight was greatly angered when the substance of Mr. Heymann's memorandum to her was printed on Wednesday and characterized as "a rebuke."

She said today that she had written a memorandum of "several pages" to Mr. Heymann Wednesday, and another yesterday.

In the first she wrote: "As far as I am concerned, it is an established fact that The New York Times had deliberately made privy to classified information of the 'official use only' and 'confidential' category in an effort to discredit me and cause embarrassment."

In the second she wrote: "How is it that The New York Times printed virtually word for word certain phrases in your 'policy' memorandum of March 14, 1966, which was classified as confidential? Was this stamped 'confidential' to restrict Passport Office Use, or was it but a 'come and get it' policy for The New York Times?"

Interview Reported

In a report of an interview in The Washington Evening Star today, Miss Knight said Mr. Heymann had come to her after The Times story appeared and asked her if she blamed him.

"I sure as hell do," she was quoted as replying.

However, in her memo to Mr. Heymann on Wednesday, she appeared to blame Abba P. Schwartz, who resigned on March 5, as director of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs after he learned of a secret reorganization plan to abolish the bureau.

Miss Knight was in an almost constant feud with Mr. Schwartz over liberalization of passport policies.

She wrote Mr. Heymann that she had "reliable information that Mr. Schwartz spent considerable time in his office following his resignation, calling reporters and peddling highly inflammable stories about me to the press."

"He is reported to have said," she continued, "he would drag me out with him if it was the last thing he did. Mr. Schwartz' antagonism to any cooperation or contact we had with the F.B.I. is a matter of general knowledge."

In an interview today with a Scripps-Howard reporter, Miss Knight was quoted as saying:

"This leak to The Times was not a leak; it was a handout. Some creeps are out to get me."

When asked by a Times reporter whether she had used the word "creeps," she said she could not recall, and then added: "I think it's a pretty good description."

In The Star interview, Miss Knight is quoted as saying:

"I cannot see the sense of the United States Government going all out in Vietnam and having our boys murdered and mutilated and then having lax security practices in the State Department. I make no bones about saying so."

"They are so concerned about Professor Hughes," she continued, "that no one has mentioned the leak of classified information to The New York Times. This is not the first time. There is a New York Times coterie in here which is virtually part of the State Department's staff."

Mr. Rusk said today that the State Department was not engaged in "shadowing" American citizens—a word used by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, in protesting the Hughes messages.

He said the March 8 airgrams had not requested "tailing or anything of that sort" but merely "to report if any information in that field turned up."

Heymann a 'Whiz Kid'

WASHINGTON, March 25 (AP)—Interviewed at her home today, Miss Knight referred to her present superior, Philip B. Heymann, as "a 32-year-old whiz kid."

"I will issue a passport to a baboon if I can find out that that is the policy," she said.

"Trouble is, I've had eight bosses in my 10 years as head of the Passport Office. It's like a railroad station. They're here today, gone tomorrow. I will follow instructions if I can find out what they are."

She vowed she would not be forced out of her job. She is under Civil Service and at 60 can stay on 10 more years "unless they prefer charges of inefficiency, which they haven't the nerve to do."

Her determination to stay is not based on economic motives. She said that her \$24,000-a-year job costs her and her husband money.

This is because her salary puts her husband, Wayne Parrish, a publisher, into a higher income-tax bracket.