

Pentagon spied on White House?

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Navy Yeoman Charles Radford testified Wednesday he stole secret White House documents on the Vietnam peace talks and other matters at the request of two Pentagon admirals as soon as he started White House clerk duty in 1970.

Radford's testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee implied the Joint Chiefs of Staff were kept in the dark about some aspects of Vietnam diplomacy, and it seemed to contradict Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's assessments of the scope and nature of the alleged "Pentagon spy ring."

Radford said the late Adm.

Rembrandt Robinson, his first boss as a Pentagon liaison clerk at the National Security Council, taught him from the outset how to steal information the Joint Chiefs wanted and cautioned him "not to take any chances" of getting caught.

Robinson was killed in a helicopter crash in Vietnam but Radford said his successor at the White House, Adm. Robert Welander, continued to pass his information to the office of Adm. Thomas Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Moorer and Kissinger have both dismissed Radford's pilfering as the independent work of an overzealous enlisted man — "trying to get brownie points," in Kissinger's phrase — that produced only trivia.

Radford said his spy work included funneling the secret papers of Kissinger and Gen. Alexander Haig back to the Pentagon after working for them as a stenographer on at least four trips to Vietnam, China and other Far East areas.

He said one of Moorer's aides walked up to him in the Pentagon after he had delivered papers from a 1971 Far East trip with Haig and said: "Radford, you do good work."

Sen. Harold Hughes, (D-Iowa), said Radford's testimony should trigger a deeper investigation of the spy matter by the committee and appeared to raise "direct conflict" between Radford's description of events and those of "his superiors."

"We must track down the other parties who were involved in this and question them to verify Radford's testimony," Hughes said.

Sen. John Stennis, (D-Miss.), the committee chairman, described Radford as "a very intelligent young man" but said he had not yet drawn any conclusions from his testimony. Stennis said the committee might recall Radford Thursday afternoon after it hears from Welander in the morning.

As he departed the hearing

room, Radford said only that "it was a cordial meeting."

As one of many examples of his Vietnam spying, Radford described how Robinson allegedly briefed him on what to look for prior to Haig's December, 1970, Southeast Asia trip.

"One was a cut in troops strength in Vietnam," he said. "Another was any agreement that the White House might make with President Thieu. He further asked me to bring back any information I might see that had to do with talks between Haig and Ambassador (Emory) Swank or agreements with Gen. Lon Nol in Phnom Penh."

The yeoman said he brought back much of Haig's correspondence from that trip, some of it "eyes only" messages to top Washington officials, and drew Robinson's praise for his work.

His testimony was full of references to the praise Robinson, Welander, other Moorer aides and officials allegedly heaped upon him for keeping the Pentagon abreast of what the White House was doing.

Radford said when he accompanied Kissinger on his pivotal visit to Peking in July 1971 — the visit that set up President Nixon's subsequent trip — Welander, who had by then succeeded Robinson, "told me he would be interested in anything I could lay my hands on."

"I remember something specifically, something about dealings with China and that anything I could gather in this area would be of particular interest to him."

He said he brought back volumes of material, delivered some of it to Welander at the Western White House in San Clemente and watched him take it "into another room where Admiral Moorer was...I naturally assumed that the book (Kissinger's agenda for upcoming meetings with Moorer) was given to him."

UPI Roundup

Judge asks czar, oil barons to court

WASHINGTON — A federal judge Wednesday ordered energy director William Simon and representatives of major oil companies to appear in court this week to defend his gasoline allocation plan against an attack by Gov. Marvin Mandel of Maryland. U.S. District Judge Dorsey Watkins signed a show-cause order against Simon in Baltimore and ordered him to appear Friday. Simon's Federal Energy Office ordered a two per cent increase in gasoline supplies for Maryland Tuesday, prompting Mandel's press spokesman, Frank DeFilippo, to say Maryland had been "screwed again." The increase in gasoline allocations affected 20 states, most of them on the East Coast, which Simon's office predicted would ease critical shortages and reduce waiting lines in gasoline stations. But Mandel charged in a suit filed Wednesday that Maryland was getting less than it really needed.

Israel forms minority government

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Golda Meir announced Wednesday night the formation of a new Israeli government excluding the hawkish Likud bloc demanded by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, and presumably without Dayan himself. The new government, which also will operate without the National Religious Party, will be Israel's first minority regime. Its makeup was unacceptable to Dayan, who said previously he would not serve in such a minority government. Before Meir's statement, Dayan told his followers in Tel Aviv that "matters cannot be settled without new elections," because the government's parliamentary strength "does not allow it to set up a coalition with a political direction, only a technical bloc." The new government will be able to count on only 58 votes in the 120-vote Israeli parliament.

Filipino troops corner rebels

JOLO, Philippines — Government troops have a Moslem rebel force on Jolo island surrounded but cannot mount a full-scale attack because the insurgents are holding hostages, possibly including priests and nuns, military sources said Wednesday. The sources said the hostages are believed to include Roman Catholic priests, nuns and businessmen. They were said to have been captured by the rebels in bloody fighting Feb. 7 and 8 that left about 90 per cent of this southern Philippine provincial capital in charred ruins.

Kissinger in Mexico for regional talks

MEXICO CITY — Mobbed by a friendly airport crowd shouting "Henry! Henry!," U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arrived Wednesday for a crucial meeting of 24 foreign ministers from the Western Hemisphere. He pledged a "new start and a new spirit" between the United States and its neighbors.

Elections set for February 28

Heavy campaigning underway in UK

LONDON (UPI) — Paraphrasing the late Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister Edward Heath appealed to Britain's voters Wednesday to "give us your strength and we will finish the job."

"We have launched a mighty social experiment," Heath told an election campaign rally at Manchester. "If we succeed we shall influence the free world for decades. So, I say to you, give us your strength and we will finish the job."

Churchill told President Franklin Roosevelt on Feb. 9, 1941, "Give us the tools and we will finish the job."

At Presgon, Labor party leader Harold Wilson said rocketing prices are the main issue in the

campaign for the Feb. 28 general elections.

"This single word 'prices' now takes in all the issues facing Britain today," he said. "This election is about prices. The price of not voting Labor next week is too high. We cannot afford another Tory (Conservative) government."

Both Heath and Wilson carried their campaigns to Britain's industrial heartland, where the election could be won or lost.

A poll conducted by Opinion Research Center, published in the London Evening Standard, showed Heath's Conservatives six per cent ahead, with 41 per cent to 35 per cent for Wilson's Labor party.

The poll showed Heath had

gained four percentage points in ten days. It also indicated the third-ranking Liberals were gaining fast, with 21 per cent compared with 16 per cent ten days ago.

Before leaving London, Heath charged at his daily campaign news conference that Wilson's Labor party has moved "distinctly to the left" and that its policies would lead to still higher prices and add to Britain's inflation woes.

In an aside, Heath told a questioner his relations with the United States are "close, warm and satisfactory" and that his exchanges with President Nixon are "the same as usual."

Heath added that "major formations" of Britain's armed forces would have to be disbanded if a Labor government carried out the party's pledge to log hundreds of millions off the

country's \$7.7 billion defense budget.

Wilson denounced Heath's Conservatives for what he described as "squalid" electioneering and "spreading bogeyman scares."

Jeremy Thorpe, the Liberal leader, sidestepped a question whether he would join a coalition government with the Conservatives or Labor if either major party failed to win a majority in the House of Commons.

"Our objective is to hit the jackpot," Thorpe said.

Heath dissolved parliament and ordered the snap election to seek a mandate for dealing with a national coal mine strike blamed by the government for Britain's worst industrial crisis since World War II. Industry has been on a three-day week since Dec. 31 to save fuel.

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