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HEADLINE: PROBES CHARGE PENTAGON SPIED ON KISSINGER IN '71
SUBHEAD: REPORT CHIEFS GOT SECRETS
BY: JIM SQUIRES

WASHINGTON --- A STILL SECRET WHITE HOUSE INVESTIGATION IN 1971 DISCLOSED THAT TOP-RANKING MILITARY OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN A SPYING AND EAVES DROPPING CAMPAIGN AGAINST HENRY KISSINGER THE TRIBUNE LEARNED TODAY. SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBE SAID EVIDENCE DISCLOSED THAT TOP SECRET INFORMATION WAS BEING PASSED BY A 'SPY' IN KISSINGER'S NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL OFFICE TO THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF INCLUDING ITS CHAIRMAN, ADMIRAL THOMAS MOORER.

THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE PLUMBERS UNIT IS THE MISTEROUS "NATIONAL SECURITY MATTER" OFTEN REFERRED TO BY PRESIDENT NIXON IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

A SENIOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL, INFORMED OF THE TRIBUNE'S ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT FIRST OFFERED TO SUPPLY DETAILS THEN SAID FLATLY "YOUR STORY IS WRONG". LATER ANOTHER SENIOR ASSISTANT RELAYED A CORRECTION THAT THE EARLIER DENIAL WAS "MISLEADING". THE SECOND OFFICIAL REFUSED TO ELABORATE.

MOORER, IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THROUGH AN AIDE, TERMED THE REPORT THAT HE RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION THROUGH EXTRAORDINARY MEANS "RIDICULOUS AND LUDICROUS." HE SAID HE HAD NEVER HAD DIFFICULTY AD NEVER HAD DIFFICULTY OBTAINING ANY INFORMATION THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS.

TRIBUNE SOURCES WERE UNABLE TO PRODUCE ANY EVIDENCE THAT MOORER WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE SPYING CAMPAIGN. BUT ALL WERE IN FIRM AGREEMENT THAT THE WHITE HOUSE PROBE RESULTED IN INFORMAL ALLEGATIONS

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AGAINST MOORER AND SEVERAL OTHER OFFICIALS INCLUDING SOME LOWER RANKING OFFICIALS.

AT LEAST ONE MILITARY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO KISSINGER'S STAFF WAS ACCUSED BY THE WHITE HOUSE INVESTIGATORS OF BEING "A SPY FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS" AND LOST HIS JOB. ONE OTHER MIDDLE-RANKING MILITARY OFFICER REPORTEDLY WAS TRANSFERRED.

ALTHOUGH ONE SOURCE REPORTED THAT WIRETAPPING WAS INVOLVED, TWO OTHERS DESCRIBED THE MILITARY TACTICS AS "EVESDROPPING," INDICATING THAT KISSINGER'S STAFF MEMBERS WERE PICKING UP INFORMATION IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND PASSING IT TO MILITARY OFFICIALS.

NO SOURCE WAS ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY THE JOINT CHIEFS WOULD DIRECT SUCH A CAMPAIGN AGAINST KISSINGER WHO WAS THEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO SETTLE THE VIETNAM WAR.
END PAGE ONE

HOWEVER, ONE FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE INVESTIGATION SAID MILITARY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MOORER, WERE THEN RIFFED BY KISSINGER'S SECRET PERSONAL DIPLOMACY AND A DECISION TO BYPASS THEM WITH SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

"KISSINGER MADE THE JCS PARANOID AS HELL" SAID THE FORMER OFFICIAL. "THERE WAS ONE HELL OF A LOT MORE POLITICS AND SCULDUGGERY GOING ON INSIDE THE JCS THAN IN THE CIA AND FBI PUT TOGETHER."

BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION BEING RECEIVED BY THE MILITARY AND CLOSE PERSONAL DIPLOMACY BEING CARRIED OUT BY KISSINGER THE SOURCE SAID, THE MILITARY OFTEN FOUND ITSELF IGNORANT OF THE TOP U.S. POLITICAL STRATEGY.

AS A RESULT, HE SAID, "THE MILITARY USED OTHER EXTRAORDINARY DEVICES TO COMPENSATE AND BEGAN A CONVERT INTELLIGENCE OPERATION ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE THAT WENT FAR BEYOND THE CHARTER OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY."

THE PLUMBERS, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF FORMER WHITE HOUSE AIDE JOHN ERLICHMAN, WERE ESTABLISHED IN JULY 1971. LED BY DAVID YOUNG, A TOP KISSINGER AIDE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF, AND EGLE "BUD" KROGH AND ERLICHMAN AIDE, THEIR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

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WAS TO CHASE DOWN NEWS LEAKS, SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING THE PENTAGON PAPERS AND THE U.S. POSITION ON THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS (SALT). THESE LEAKS HAD ANGERED NIXON AND KISSINGER.

CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGED MILITARY SPYING BEGAN IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND WAS HANDLED INITIALLY BY J. FRED BUZHARDT, THE GENERAL COUNSEL AT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND NOW SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT.

ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, IT FIRST CENTERED ON A MIDDLE-LEVEL MILITARY OFFICER SUSPECTED OF SELLING INFORMATION TO NEWSMEN, SPECIFICALLY COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON. ANDERSON CATEGORICALLY DENIES BUYING INFORMATION FROM ANY SOURCE.

HOWEVER, SOURCES SAID THE WHITE HOUSE INVESTIGATION OF THE MILITARY OFFICER BEGAN IN LATE 1971 SHORTLY AFTER PUBLICATION OF A COLUMN BY ANDERSON IN WHICH HE QUOTED SECRET WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENTS ON THE INDIA-PAKISTAN WAR.

THE INVESTIGATION ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED WIRE TAPPING BUT IT COULD NOT BE LEARNED HOW MANY TAPS WERE INSTALLED OR WHO WAS TAPPED.

IT WAS AN EXPANSION OF THIS PROBE, DIRECTED BY YOUNG AND KROGH WHICH EVENTUALLY IMPLICATED SEVERAL OTHERS AND DISCLOSED THE EFFORTS TO SPY ON KISSINGER.
END PAGE TWO

NIXON IN NUMEROUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS LAST YEAR, REFERRED TO THIS INVESTIGATION AS ONE OF THE SENSITIVE "NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS" WHICH PROMPTED HIM TO SET UP A WHITE HOUSE PLUMBERS UNIT, SOME MEMBERS OF WHICH WERE LATER IMPLICATED IN THE 1971 BREAK-IN AT THE OFFICE OF DR. DANIEL ELLSBERG'S PSYCHIATRIST AND IN THE WATERGATE BURGLARY ALMOST A YEAR LATER.

THE WHITE HOUSE HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO DISCLOSE DETAILS OF THE OPERATION SAYING IT WOULD DAMAGE NATIONAL SECURITY.

WHEN FIRST ASKED FOR A COMMENT ON THIS STORY TODAY, THE SENIOR

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OFFICIAL AT THE WESTERN WHITE HOUSE IN SAN CLEMENTE RESPONDED "THIS STORY IS NOT GOING TO DO THE COUNTRY ANY GOOD, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WILL HURT THE PRESIDENT." THE OFFICIAL THEN INVITED TRIBUNE REPORTER ALDO BECHMAN TO COME TO HIS OFFICE SAYING THE WHITE HOUSE WANTED "TO MAKE SURE THAT IF THE STORY IS TOLD, IT IS TOLD ACCURATELY."

AFTER HEARING SOME DETAILS OF THE TRIBUNE STORY, THE OFFICIAL WITHDREW HIS OFFER SAYING "BASICALLY THAT STORY IS INACCURATE. ELEMENTS OF THE STORY ARE INCORRECT."

HE URGED THAT THE TRIBUNE NOT PUBLISH THE STORY, MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF LAWSUITS, AND SAID ANY PAPER PRINTING SUCH A STORY "WOULD HAVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT." LATER THE SAME OFFICIAL ADVISED THAT A TRIBUNE REPORTER IN WASHINGTON SHOULD CONTACT BUZHARDT, THE RANKING WHITE HOUSE EXPERT ON SUCH MATTERS AND THAT A MEETING WOULD BE ARRANGED.

BUZHARDT INTERVIEWED IN AN OFFICE HERE TERMED THE EARLIER DENIAL "MISLEADING" AND SAID THE OTHER OFFICIAL WAS CONCERNED HE HAD "MISLEAD THE REPORTER."

BUZHARDT SAID THE TRIBUNE'S VERSION OF THE STORY CONTAINED A "FUNDAMENTAL INACCURACY" WHICH HE REFUSED TO EXPLAIN. HE SAID NO NEWSPAPER STORY "CAN BE TOTALLY ACCURATE ON THIS CASE."

SEVERAL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE WATERGATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, SEN. SAM ERVIN AND SEN. HOWARD BAKER, COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMAN, FORMER SPECIAL WATERGATE PROSECUTOR ARCHIBALD COX AND HIS SUCCESSOR LEON JAWORSKI, HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE MATTER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR BAKER WHO IS KNOWN TO BE CONDUCTING HIS OWN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGATIONS REFUSED TO CONFIRM OR DENY REPORTS OF THE MILITARY SPYING.

HOWEVER, BAKER HAS MADE SEVERAL TANTILIZING PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE MATTER REFERRING TO IT AS THE "BEAST IN THE FOREST" OF THE WATERGATE INVESTIGATIONS.

THE SCRIPTS HOWARD VERSION IS SIMILAR WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPHS:

WHILE IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT THE PLUMBERS WORKED ON FOUR PROJECTS, ONLY THREE OF THEM HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC UNTIL TODAY. THE THREE WERE THE LEAKS OF U.S. POSITION ON THE INDIA-PAKISTAN DISPUTE, THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS TALKS AND THE PENTAGON PAPERS.

THE SOURCES FOR SEVERAL INTELLIGENCE AREAS OUTSIDE THE PENTAGON SAID THE FOURTH OPERATION WAS THE DISCOVERY OF MILITARY SPYING ON

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KISSINGER'S OPERATION.

THE SOURCES SAID THE WHITE HOUSE ALSO DISCOVERED SOME COVERT INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES BEING CONDUCTED BY PENTAGON INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS. THEY SAID THE ACTIVITIES WENT BEYOND "THE SCOPE OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY'S CHARTER."

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