

## The Radford Story

My understanding of the Yeoman Radford - alleged JCS spy ring - evolved in an interesting way. During the latter part of the Indo-Pakistan War major leaks of information began to appear in Jack Anderson's column. Minutes of JCS meetings for that period revealed that the White House was beside itself with rage over the leaks which revealed policy discussions going on in the Special Review Group, that group of high-level governmental authorities constituted to deal with foreign policy crises. No one knew the source but it was obvious that the memoranda and documents being leaked could only have come from a very few office/s. The normal paranoia of the administration became much more marked and intensive efforts were made to identify the source. My files show that on 13, 14, and 15 December 1971 my office was one of those contacted by the offices of Secretary Laird and Admiral Tom Moorer with questions concerning these leaks.

On 4 January 1972, John Warner, temporarily the acting Secretary of the Navy in the absence of Governor Chafee, called me in to state that he had orders to get a first-class yeoman named Radford, out of the White House and out of town that day. He said that there were only two or three

places on the West coast to which he could be assigned under the orders given. Warner directed me, in the name of the President, to get these orders written in such a way that no one other than me would "know what was going on." I told him that I would report back after I had examined the situation. On return to my office I learned that Radford was the yeoman assigned to the military office headed by Rear Admiral Bob Wellender, liaison officer between Henry Kissinger and Tom Moorer. I contacted the senior naval officer in the Office of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Rear Admiral Jim Watkins, and ordered him not to ask any questions but write a set of orders assigning Radford to the Thirteenth Naval District, whose headquarters were in Seattle, and to get it done that day. I then returned to John Warner and told him that I had set things in motion but that I did not consider it proper for him or for me to permit such precipitate action to be carried out on a naval person without knowing the reasons. John Warner said that he was not about to question the orders of the Commander in Chief and suggested I not do so either.

I then went to Admiral Moorer to find out what he knew, since the man was under his command. Tom Moorer reported that the yeoman was alleged

to have been involved in passing documents to Jack Anderson, but that the White House did not want action taken against him because the yeoman would reveal that part of his duties had been to pass documents to Tom Moorer without the knowledge of the Secretary of Defense -- the President and Henry Kissinger did not want it known that the Secretary of Defense was being bypassed. I told Admiral Moorer that I recommended that in fairness to the yeoman, and to the whole system, the allegations should be presented as formal charges and that the judicial process should function. Tom Moorer stated that he agreed, that he had so recommended, but that his recommendation had been disapproved. I returned to Mr. Warner, informed him of what I had learned, and recommended that since Radford was a Navy man and the Department of the Navy had the responsibility for him, that Warner insist that formal charges be ~~was~~ brought. Mr. Warner refused to do this or even to find out why the case was being handled as it was. He directed me to cease my own inquiry.

During the course of the day, Mr. Warner instructed my executive assistant, in my absence, to change Radford's orders from Seattle to Portland and, <sup>later,</sup> ~~then~~ to look for a small city near Portland. By 5 January, the next day

at 10 p.m., Radford's household goods had been picked up and he was out of town.

On 6 January 1972, Mr. Warner contacted my executive assistant and said that he must know by 4:40 p.m. where Radford's desk was to be, where he was to be assigned, and what the other alternatives as to location were by 6 p.m. Information on all activities in Oregon other than Portland was provided to him. From these activities Mr. Warner selected at Salem, Oregon, a Naval Reserve Training Center for Radford's assignment. Warner then directed my executive, again in my absence, to screen the jacket of the commanding officer of the training center and to contact the Rear Admiral in command of the Thirteenth Naval District to insure that the former could be trusted to "follow sensitive guidance." Rear Admiral McDonald, Commander of the Thirteenth Naval District, reported back on 7 January that the commanding officer was knowledgeable, had good community relations, and could handle guidance with a high probability of maintaining security. ~~The~~ The great attention to detail continued. ~~In~~ In a subsequent directive, Mr. Warner instructed my executive that he wanted to insure that Radford was informed

that orders were enroute to him so that he would not arrange for housing in Seattle, in accordance with his original order.

Radford was contacted and expressed initially pleasure that orders were taking him closer to home, in Portland. Later we received the report that he was not happy with his specific assignment because he thought that that job would reduce his chances of making the next promotion to chief yeoman. He was informed by the Bureau that he would be acting in a supervisory capacity and did not have to worry about the promotion opportunity. He <sup>was reported to have</sup> made the statement "I know who put me here, I'll talk to him and get it changed." He asked if his clearance had been revoked. The reply was negative, no clearances had been revoked.

A few days later in conversation with Rear Admiral Wellender, I learned that he was the one who had "blown the whistle" on Radford prior <sup>To</sup> Christmas. He said that Radford had been relieved of all duties at that time and that subsequently he, Admiral Wellender, had been relieved of his duties in the White House, and had been asked to remove all of his files and was therefore pretty much in a non-duty status at the time.

This phase of the mysterious operation ended on 17 January at 6:30 p.m.

when Mr. Warner called me to state that Radford had called his contact, Colonel Finklestein, in the office of Admiral Moorer and expressed that he was now satisfied with his assignment.

I discussed with both Admiral Moorer and Henry Kissinger whether or not there was any reason to consider that Admiral Wellender should not receive the very best next professional assignment in accordance with his record, which was superior. Both of them were emphatic that he should be considered unblemished and that the disestablishment of the liaison office was a political necessity because of Laird's concern, not a punitive or disciplinary decision. Admiral Wellender was sent to command of the cruiser destroyer flotilla, where he did well and returned to my staff at the end of that tour where he was assigned to the office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans and Policy.

This ended the Radford incident until newspaper stories broke out two years later concerning the alleged "spy ring." On 11 January 1974, in an executive session with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Moorer reported that he wanted to bring us up to date on the publicity concerning the plumbers. He said that Ehrlichman had been in town for a week and

that he and the other plumbers were trying to justify their existence by allusion to the National Security Council leaks. Tom Moorer said that he felt that he had an institutional responsibility and that he couldn't let this issue get out of hand. He reminded the Chiefs that ever since President Eisenhower, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff had had a liaison officer in the White House; Colonel Lemnitzer from the Army, General Ginstburgh of the Air Force, General Andy Goodpaster himself had been one. Admiral Moorer stated that it normally had been a one-way channel providing staff support to the National Security Council's Special Assistant -- in this administration, Kissinger. He said that Secretary Laird had always opposed this concept and always looked for a chance to cut it off. He reminded the Chiefs that on the 14 of December 1971 quotes began to appear in the Jack Anderson column, sometimes entire documents. He recalled Jack Anderson appeared on television waving top secret documents. He got a Pulitzer prize for this and, as Admiral Moorer said, actually ended up on the front page of the Post for awhile before he got back to his natural position on the funny page. Admiral Moorer reported that Admiral Wellender, in his role as the liaison officer at this time, had finally observed something

that broke the case open. He had prepared a list of ships that were to go with U.S.S. Enterprise into the Indian Ocean when Dr. Kissinger asked for it. His yeoman Radford had typed it up and in parenthesis after one of the ships put "tartar sam". When this got into the newspaper, it appeared as U.S.S. Tartar Sam and this was what triggered in Wellender's mind that it had to have come from that memo. He reported it to Haig and to Admiral Moorer. Admiral Moorer had informed Mel Laird and had recommended to Laird that he invoke the Universal Code of Military Justice against Radford. But Admiral Moorer said that he regretted he hadn't put the recommendation in writing. At the same time General Haig reported ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> leak~~ed~~ to Ehrlichman and Company and there emerged a jurisdictional dispute between Ehrlichman/Haldeman on the one hand, and Laird on the other, and two separate investigations were done - one in the White House and one in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Neither of these were ever shown to Admiral Moorer. With regard to Yeoman Radford, Admiral Moorer said that he had had duty in India, he was devoted to the Indians and to Ambassador Keating. While he was in India, Jack Anderson had come through on a trip and Yeoman Radford had been assigned to him in New Delhi. Both

were Mormons. They became close. When Radford came back to Washington, he attended the Mormon Church with Anderson and Radford had Indian students staying with him in his house. He was very pro-India. The thrust of the White House documents was all anti-India. It was Admiral Moorer's belief that Radford became a crusader against those who were attacking his beloved India, and that Anderson took advantage of and exploited this attitude. When Wellender saw the possible connection, he immediately changed the combination to his safe and not a single item after that ever appeared in the press, although all the documents that had actually been leaked were the period 3-15 December. Anderson milked these leaks for about three months, December, January, and February, sometimes repeating quotes, sometimes fuzzing up that he had merged messages and that kind of thing. Admiral Moorer suggested there were a lot of politically embarrassing things in these messages, such as frank comments from Ambassadors about their principles, et cetera. During the period when he was being interrogated, Radford suddenly changed his story to state that his job had been to collect for the JCS. Admiral Moorer believed that he was advised to do this by a lawyer and noted that Anderson in his column about this time commented on

Side B -

the fact that there had been a very funny outcome to the investigations.

~~A~~ Radford had been such a good yeoman, reverting back to the prior period, that Kissinger and Haig had each taken him with them to India, South Vietnam, et cetera. He was a crackerjack shorthand man. When he returned from the South Vietnam trip, at least, Radford briefed Wellender on the trip and he typed up a report of what he had done on the trip. He had made this available to Wellender. When it got to Admiral Moorer, he sent it back to General Haig and has a receipt to show that he did get it back to Haig. Haig had already briefed him on the information contained therein. During the interrogation, Radford was asked if the Chairman had ordered him to acquire information. As of this time it was Admiral Moorer's understanding that Radford said no. Admiral Moorer told the JCS that he had never seen Radford to the best of his knowledge and belief and still hasn't. Admiral Moorer reported that Rear Admiral Rem Robinson<sup>Wellender's predecessor</sup> had been recalled from sea duty during the period of this investigation in 1972, and Radford was asked if Wellender had ever given him any orders to acquire any information. Radford said no. He was asked why he did it, and he<sup>said that he</sup> sensed it was expected of him. The investigators sent for Robinson. He was shuttled back and forth between

the two investigating bodies and was finally ordered by Ehrlichman to go directly back to San Diego without returning back to the Pentagon, so that he couldn't get back into the investigation being done by Mel Laird. Admiral Moorer emphasized that the net of all this was that at some point in the investigations Radford kind of turned the thrust of the investigations around to something that was no longer investigating him. Instead, it was looking at whether or not Admiral Moorer had been up to anything. Admiral Moorer stressed that the JCS didn't know what was going on and that if the acquisition could however unfairly been made against anyone, it could only be made against the Chairman. He stated that Radford had been ordered out after this investigations or these investigations. He recalled that he, Admiral Moorer, had had some conversations with me about that aspect of it and that I was getting direct orders from the Secretary of the Navy, apparently relayed from the Secretary of Defense, as to what to do. He reported that Radford was first to have gone to the State of Washington, and then they realized that that was Ehrlichman's home State, so they changed that and there were a number of different signals. Admiral Moorer said that we never knew who was calling the shots, but they got him out of

town. Admiral Moorer stated that he thinks the plumbers were behind this - that Ehrlichman was indicted for the robbery out in Los Angeles and was trying to make the case that the plumbers worked with a vital function in this investigation of "an espionage" by the military, as a typical example of what they had to do. Admiral Moorer pointed out that the plumbers never, to the best of his knowledge, found out anything - that the only thing that was brought out was when Wellender caught Radford. He said there is another wheel within a wheel on this, <sup>He believed</sup> ~~and value~~ that Ehrlichman was trying very hard to discredit Kissinger at the time of the earlier investigation as part of the power struggle within the White House, and Laird was trying very hard to insulate Kissinger from the Pentagon. And this is what led to two separate investigations, neither of which Admiral Moorer had ever seen. Admiral Moorer asked Laird late in 1973 why there never was a court martial given to Radford and Laird said that the President had told him not to. Admiral Moorer pointed out that although Radford was never convicted, the circumstantial evidence against him was overwhelming, when you rack up everything that was known. And although Radford had denied that he had ever leaked ~~X~~ to Anderson, he thinks the record is quite clear including the