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Probes Start In 'Leaks' On Defense Plans

Atom Group, Air Force Releases Criticized

By Associated Press

Angry protests against leaks of reportedly secret military information to "potential enemies" stirred up a congressional inquiry yesterday.

Members complained they are particularly disturbed by recently published stories that the United States already has mapped strategic targets in Russia for bombing if necessary, and by an atomic energy commission publication of maps and pictures of atomic installations.

Both the House armed services and appropriations committees disclosed that informal investigations are under way. They promised a full-dress inquiry if necessary.

Asks Symington to Explain

Chairman Vinson of Georgia of the armed services committee told newsmen he has requested an explanation from W. Stuart Symington, secretary of the Air Force.

"I would not call this an investigation; call it an inquiry," Vinson said.

"I intend to find out," he added, whether secret information has been made available to "potential enemies" by military officials, or whether "the published stories were merely the conclusions of the men who wrote them."

Rep. Case (R) of South Dakota, a member of the appropriations committee, said a subcommittee handling atomic energy commission funds has questioned AEC officials about publication of pictures and maps in the commission's annual report.

Releases Defended

A reply from the commission, Case said, contended that none of the information published in the report was classified as secret and all of it had been published, or made available for publication, previously. Many of the photographs, he said, were made by the Army and released by the Army.

"But as far as I know it was the first time that all the pictures and maps were put together in one handy book," he said.

Case pointed out that any agent of a foreign government could buy a copy of the report at a nominal

cost from the Government Printing Office.

Case called for a full-scale inquiry to place the blame for the recent "leaks" after Rep. Mahon (D) of Texas said military officials had denied releasing any secret information and had voiced "concern over unauthorized press reports."

Mahon Protests Action

Mahon started the discussion when he protested in the House against "the action of military officials in permitting release to the press and our potential enemies of important military information."

Some of the information "bandied about in the press," he said, involved "secret discussions before the joint chiefs of staff, alleged information as to how we expect to hit 70 vital Russian targets, and information as to the content of top secret maps in the Pentagon (military headquarters)."

Mahon is chairman of an appropriation subcommittee handling Army, Navy and Air Force funds.

"I wish the people who are apprehensive about war would quit giving away important military information to our potential enemies," Mahon said.

"It is not exaggeration to say that America is giving away billions of dollars worth of information each year to potential enemies."

Raps Congress, Too

The military, Mahon said, is not the only offender. He cited the atomic energy commission report as an example of free information of value to potential enemies, and said that in "some instances Congress has not been blameless."

Democratic leader McCormack of Massachusetts told the House Russia would have been willing to pay "millions of dollars" for published pictures now accessible to the Soviets for the price of a national magazine or a government publication.

Other members who joined in the protests included Representatives Short (R) of Missouri of the armed services committee, and Hinshaw (R) of California, and Durham (D) of North Carolina, of the joint Senate-House atomic energy committee.

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U. S. 'Secrets' Leak Irks Congressmen

By The Associated Press

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Inquiry Not in Investigation

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Top-Secret Maps

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Air Secretary Asked To Explain Leaks of Secret Military Data

Mahon Sets Off Uprising In House as Debate on 70-Group Bill Starts

Chairman Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee said today he has started a formal inquiry into reported leaks of secret military information.

He told of the move after Representative Mahon, Democrat, of Texas, in a House speech had accused military officials and the Atomic Energy Commission of "permitting release to the press and our potential enemies of important military secrets."

Mr. Vinson told newsmen he has written to Air Secretary Symington for "a full explanation" of recently published stories dealing with Air Force plans and telling of suggested bombing targets in Russia.

"I would not call this an investigation, call it an inquiry," he said.

Mr. Vinson said he has no knowledge of whether actual secret information has been released by military officials "or whether the published stories were merely the conclusions of the men who wrote them."

"But I intend to find out," he added.

McCormack Backs Demands.

Representative Case, Republican, of South Dakota, followed Mr. Mahon in the House discussion with a demand for a congressional investigation of the source of such military data and of means to cut off the flow.

Majority Leader McCormack joined in Mr. Case's demand, and set off a general uprising in the House against possible disclosure of secrets.

Mr. McCormack said he had been disturbed particularly about an article he said had been published in Fortune magazine relating to atomic energy operations in the United States. He said he understood the presentation gave "a complete picture," which Russia would have been willing to give a large sum to obtain.

Representative Short of Missouri, ranking minority member of the Armed Services Committee, mentioned a publication of the Atomic Energy Commission in which illustration of processing facilities appeared.

Sabath Attacks Spending Policies.

Representative Hinshaw, Republican, of California, a member of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, said the Atomic Energy Commission release was "under investigation by the committee. The discussion of security in-

formation came as the House prepared to consider a bill establishing a 70-group Air Force and fixing permanent peacetime strength of the Army at 837,000. This measure, coming to the floor under a rule providing for four-hour's debate, appeared due for a bumpy time.

Chairman Sabath of the Rules Committee launched into a general attack on armed forces spending policies and criticized the broad authority granted the Army and Air Force in the bill to make advance commitments in bringing themselves to authorized strength.

The air power argument began last year when the House passed a resolution declaring the Nation should have a 70-group Air Force. The resolution was not considered by the Senate.

However, both the House and Senate approved an appropriation bill carrying \$822,000,000 for plane purchases as the first installment on a five-year 70-group program.

59 Groups Now Operating.

The Air Force now has 59 groups, not all at full strength. The 70-group plan would bring

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16 Nov 1947

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THE EVENING STAR, Washington, D. C.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1949

Spies Not Needed To Get U. S. Secrets

By Henry McLemore

Why any foreign power should go to the trouble and expense to spy on this country is a mystery to me. Given enough time, the United States

will reveal everything but the hat and glove sizes of the Secretary of State, the midnight password at Oak Ridge and the list of foods to which President Truman is allergic.



Henry McLemore.

No matter how often this country crosses its heart and hopes to die if it reveals any military secrets, it goes right ahead blabbering and blubbering everything it knows. Remember, just before we got into the last war, how we made it a point to tell what a meager number of men were under arms, how they were having to drill with broom handles because there were no rifles?

Why Not Go Whole Way?

At the same time—and this is enough to make a fire plug laugh—this country goes to extremes to throw a protective afghan of security over trivial military information. If you don't believe me, read the list of books for sale by the Infantry Journal Press. You'll find the word "restricted" after

the three volumes of the "Ordnance Field Guide," for example. This means that it can be sold only to responsible parties.

At the same time the Government is restricting the sale of the "Ordnance Field Guide," it is allowing Chairman David E. Lilienthal of the Atomic Energy Commission to say that our atomic weapons have been "substantially improved," and is raising not too many eyebrows at Senator Brien McMahon's suggestion that it might be wise for Mr. Lilienthal to disclose the number of atom bombs we now have on hand.

If this comes to pass, why not go the whole way and choose Oak Ridge as the happiest possible site for a meeting between President Truman and Stalin? Stalin may have the miseries, but my guess is that he would disregard the advice of his physicians for the chance to spend three or four days in one of our atomic bomb plants. Think of all the fun he could have counting the bombs for himself. And, for use as a napkin during lunch, he could be provided with our plans for defense.

What Goes On?

Why can't this country keep its military secrets to itself? What goes on in the minds of men who think it necessary to reveal how fast our jets fly, the exact heights and distances our rockets have reached? If these things are worth developing, then they are worth being kept secret.

Along these lines there is the article in the current Harper's magazine on our development of submarines. It is written by an

authority, Fletcher Pratt, so it cannot be dismissed as the day-dreaming of a cartoonist or a wild-eyed imaginer for a 10-cent science magazine. It makes good reading, this article, but the trouble is that it makes just as good reading for the Russians as it does for Americans.

The next thing you know, the men who are entrusted with our top secrets will be wearing sandwich boards announcing our very latest developments down to the last detail.

If it makes sense, then I'm

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MEMORANDUM

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The following recent incidents all involve various phases Security violations:

1. A recent case in one of the Bureaus of the Navy Department pertains to the microfilming of a highly contentious document. This document was sent to the regular microfilming facilities without due regard to Security and as a result extra copies of the document were duplicated in an unauthorized manner. Due to the highly controversial nature of the topic presented in this document the extra copies could have resulted in irreparable damage to the Navy Department had their recovery not been effected. Fortunately, this was done before any adverse leakage of information resulted.

2. Another case involved the forwarding of a model by one activity of the Navy to another without due regard to the fact that the model in question was classified. This model was subsequently lost or stolen and it was ascertained that the forwarding office had not pointed out that the model was classified and also that the receiving office had no after-hour security so that the model could have been taken by anyone having access to the building by day or night.

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3. A leakage of information regarding ship movements occurred last fall when a news commentator made the statement that a certain U. S. Naval ship would relieve another ship on duty in the Mediterranean. This information had been most closely held and it was impossible to determine how it was made available to the newsman.

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4. Another case is concerned with the publication of an article dealing in jet engines, which is of a classified nature, and which appeared in a detailed fashion in a publication of this Country and in England. Due to the phraseology of the article it appears that the magazine representatives must have had direct access to Naval data in preparing the article.

Bureau

5. A very recent case involves a civilian employee removing a classified manual from a Naval library and mailing the same to a friend in another city. Quite by accident this unauthorized mailing was discovered and the document dealing with radar matters was recovered.

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6. A rather interesting type of case was a recent occurrence in the Navy Department where an individual used for a considerable period of time the facilities of a room in the Navy Department and talked to various Naval officers on the basis of his assertion that he was related to an important Naval civilian official. After suspicion was directed

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toward him investigation disclosed that he was a rank imposter who had been guilty of numerous bad check violations in the recent past, and had also been guilty of impersonating an Army officer within the past six months. This individual had apparently been accepted at face value by those with whom he talked mainly because he was of a personable appearance and had a glib tongue.

7. Another case involved the premature disclosure by the Press of certain developments on a recent Naval expedition. For Security reasons it had been desirable that these developments be withheld; however, the Press representative who had accompanied the expedition apparently felt no compunction about disclosing this matter and did so without the authority of the Officer in Charge. Because it could not be demonstrated that this individual had intended to harm the United States by such a disclosure he could not be subjected to prosecution.

8. Several other cases have dealt with the publication of articles or books by personnel either retired or on inactive duty. In some instances these publications have taken place without regard to the fact that certain information coming to the attention of the authors during their tour of official duty might still be in a classified status.

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*Richard
Stapp*

9. An investigation in September, 1948, determined that a flag officer of the Navy was most probably responsible for certain newspaper articles which had appeared on an advance type airplane. The officer admitted discussing the subject with the author of the news article in a "friendly way."

Cruise

10. Projected ship movements to a troublesome area were thoroughly compromised in July, 1947 by various members of the Naval Service in making arrangement for logistic support of the ship concerned. They failed to regard the movement in a classified light with the result that the entire plan was compromised within a matter of days.

Valley Boy

11. Improper handling of outgoing mail was responsible for the inadvertent forwarding of a number of classified documents to the Netherlands Naval Attache recently.

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