

# FORD BIDS COLBY REPORT QUICKLY ON C.I.A. DOSSIERS

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## Account of Allegations About Domestic Spying Will Go Through Security Panel

### CONGRESS HEARINGS SET

#### Chairmen of 3 Committees Planning Broad Inquiries as Protests Grow

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 — President Ford today ordered William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence, to report "within a matter of days" on the published allegations of illegal C.I.A. spying on American citizens.

Mr. Ford's call for an investigation, announced by Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, at Vail, Colo., where the President is vacationing, came amid heightened Congressional concern and protest over the alleged domestic spying, initially reported yesterday in The New York Times.

Extensive hearings into the C.I.A. soon after the new Congress convenes next month were announced by Senator John J. Sparkman, who will become chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Senator John C. Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, chairman of the Intelligence subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

#### Through Security Council

Mr. Nessen said the President had ordered Mr. Colby to submit his report through the National Security Council, headed by Secretary of State Kissinger.

"The purpose is to find out exactly what did happen," the press aide said.

Asked about the future of Richard Helms, the former Director of Central Intelligence, who is now Ambassador to Iran, Mr. Nessen cautioned

newsmen to "put in perspective what we have here."

"We have a newspaper account of past activities of the C.I.A.," he said. "That's all we have. We need to avoid hardening these activities into fact. Pending this [Mr. Colby's] report, it seems that to make this kind of judgment is premature."

#### Violations Alleged

The Times reported yesterday that, according to well-placed Government sources, the C.I.A. had violated its charter by mounting a massive intelligence operation during the Nixon Administration against the antiwar movement and other dissident groups in the United States. Intelligence files on at least 10,000 American citizens were compiled, the sources said.

Mr. Nessen also said that Mr. Colby informed the President last week of the pending article. Asked why Mr. Ford did not immediately demand a report from Mr. Colby upon learning of the allegations, the press aide said he was unable to provide any further information.

Asked why the White House was asking the C.I.A., in effect, to investigate itself, Mr. Nessen did not respond directly, but repeated only that President Ford had initiated the investigation.

Mr. Nessen's comments culminated a confusing day for the dispersed Ford Administration, which seemed to be unprepared for the reactions to the reports of alleged illegal spying.

News agencies initially reported today that the Justice Department had begun an inquiry into the C.I.A., and later accounts said that Mr. Ford had told Secretary Kissinger to make the study.

The confusion was finally

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resolved by a high-level Kissinger aide, who told a newsmen tonight that "what happened is that the President has asked Colby to give him a report and Henry asked Colby to submit it to the President through the N.S.C. [National Security Council]."

Earlier, the State Department announced that Mr. Kissinger had asked Mr. Helms, who served as director from 1966 until 1973, for a separate report on the allegations.

Mr. Helms has made no public comment on the published reports, but Robert Anderson, the State Department's spokesman, told newsmen that the

envoy would return to testify before any Congressional committee seeking his appearance. There were no immediate plans for his return pending such a request, the spokesman added.

#### Denies Kissinger Role

Mr. Anderson said he could "confidently say" that Mr. Kissinger had no knowledge of any illegal domestic spying by the C.I.A.

Asked whether Mr. Kissinger should have known, as national security adviser, of such activities, he said, "I'd assume he'd see projects done by the C.I.A. that concerned national security affairs."

The C.I.A. officially remained silent.

"We're not talking about that story," one agency officer told a caller.

The most pointed congressional reaction to the allegations of C.I.A. spying came from Senator Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama.

"I have been shocked by the revelations regarding C.I.A. activities in the United States," Mr. Sparkman said in a statement. "This is a domestic matter but there have been other operations of the C.I.A. in foreign fields that have disturbed the members of the Foreign Relations Committee."

#### To Summon Helms

His hearings, he said, will concentrate on the C.I.A.'s foreign activities but, nonetheless, Mr. Helms will be summoned to testify "since many of the things being brought to light occurred while he was the head of the C.I.A."

Senator Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, said his panel also would conduct thorough investigation into the C.I.A.

In a statement issued from his home in De Kalb, Miss., Mr. Stennis said the inquiry would be "aimed at determining whether the agency is presently operating within the let-

*Compare with earlier on same title on who "in fact" did*

ter and spirit of the 1947 basic charter creating the organization." That charter bars any domestic activity by the C.I.A. Representative Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, said the hearing would begin soon as the new Congress was organized.

He said his investigation would be conducted "in a measured, comprehensive manner, letting the chips fall where they may." He urged Americans not to make "hasty judgments," adding that "some have already assumed the allegations and implications to be facts."

It was unclear tonight whether the confusion over who was investigating what in the Ford Administration was the result of official or press misunderstandings.

#### Participation Denied

Earlier today a news agency quoted Laurence H. Silberman, the acting Attorney General, as saying he had been in touch with Mr. Colby and "the matter is under review." Justice Department officials later said that Mr. Silberman had not meant to suggest that the department was planning to participate in the review.

In a similar misunderstanding, State Department officials later emphatically refuted reports from the White House press briefing in Vail saying that President Ford had authorized Secretary Kissinger to conduct the inquiry into the C.I.A. They said that Mr. Kissinger, who is scheduled to begin a vacation in a few days, would be involved only to the extent of relaying the report through the National Security Council to the President.

At his news briefing, Mr. Nessen was unable to say whether Mr. Ford had been in telephone contact today with either Mr. Kissinger or Mr. Colby about the matter.

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