AEC's Chief Denies Offer Of CIA Post

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman James R. Schlesinger said yesterday he has not been offered the position of director of the Central Intelligence Agency by President Nixon.

Schlesinger was mentioned as a possible successor to Director Richard Helms when it was disclosed Dec. 2 that Helms would resign to take a new job in Mr. Nixon's second administration.

Helms has headed the CIA since 1966 when he was promoted by President Johnson.

In an interview yesterday on "Meet the Press" (NBC, WRC), Schlesinger was asked if he had been offered the CIA job. "No," he replied. He also said that there is no White House decision to transfer AEC authority over civilian development of atomic power to the Interior Department.

ment. Asked if there are effective safeguards to keep atomic material safe from hijackers and terrorists, Schlesinger said that current nuclear plants can withstand the impact of a 200,000-pound plane flying at 150 miles an hour. But he said "they may not be adequate for a larger aircraft."

Three hijackers who commandeered a Southern Airways jet on Nov. 11 threatened to crash into the AEC facility at Oak Ridge, Tenn.