

HELMS TIES SPYING TO RADICALS' RISE

Says a President Approved Action by C.I.A. Because of Upsurge in 1950's

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 — Richard Helms, former Director of Central Intelligence, told Congress today that the C.I.A. had become involved in domestic intelligence gathering and Presidential authority because of "the sudden and quite dramatic upsurge of extreme radicalism in this country and abroad" beginning in the late nineteen-fifties.

Meanwhile, Senator Howard Baker Jr., Republican

The text of Helms statement appears on Page 10.

Tennessee, said that his investigation into any C.I.A. involvement in Watergate had disclosed that the agency compiled dossiers on a former Senate aide and a New York private investigator. [Page 9.]

Discussing the agency's spying, Mr. Helms, in a four-page statement released by the Senate Armed Services Intelligence Subcommittee, said: "By and itself this violence and this radicalism were of no direct concern to the Central Intelligence Agency.

"It became so only in degree that the trouble was inspired by, or coordinated with, or funded by, anti-American subversion mechanisms abroad."

"In such event," he added, "the C.I.A. had a real, a clear and proper function to perform but in collaboration with

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F.B.I. the agency did perform that function in response to the express concern of the President."

Mr. Helms, now Ambassador to Iran, who served as the agency's director from 1966 to 1973, did not say in his statement which President had authorized what. Nor was it immediately clear which radical groups in the late nineteen-fifties had been responsible for precipitating the C.I.A.'s domestic activities.

Much of Mr. Helms's prepared statement was taken up with criticism of what he said were "irresponsible attacks" on the C.I.A. by the press. He said that the "principal allegations" — of massive, illegal domestic spying — "remain unsupported."

In a 45-page statement released yesterday by another Senate subcommittee, William E. Colby, the present Director of Central Intelligence, acknowledged that the agency had infiltrated undercover agents into antiwar and dissident political groups inside the United States as part of a counterintelligence program that, beginning in 1967, led to the accumulation of files on 10,000 American citizens.

Five Senate and House committees and subcommittees have announced hearings into allegations of domestic spying, and President Ford has established an eight-member "blue-ribbon" commission to conduct its own inquiry for the executive branch.

Mr. Helms and Mr. Colby testified in secret this morning before the Armed Services Intelligence Subcommittee, headed by Senator John S. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Mr. Stennis later ordered the release of the Helms' statement.

Mr. Helms's testimony acknowledging that the C.I.A. had participated in some domestic operations, appeared to contradict previous testimony on the same subject that he gave before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in confirmation hearings on his ambassa-

dorial appointment in February, 1973.

Asked then whether the agency had become involved in widespread domestic spying in 1969 and 1970, Mr. Helms replied, "I don't recall whether we were asked, but we were not involved because it seemed to me that was a clear violation of what our charter was." If he had been requested to conduct such operations, Mr. Helms further told the senators, "I would simply go to explain to the President this didn't seem to be advisable."

Mr. Helms is scheduled to testify before the Foreign Relations Committee next week. The committee is now headed by Senator John J. Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama, who succeeded former Senator J. W. Fulbright.

While conceding some domestic C.I.A. activities, Mr. Helms repeatedly defended the agency today against what he termed "irresponsible" attacks by the press.

"The principal allegations [of C.I.A. domestic spying] remain unsupported," Mr. Helms said, "and, to the contrary, have been undermined by press itself."

It was not immediately clear to what evidence he was referring.

Mr. Colby, in his statement yesterday before the Appropriations Intelligence Subcommittee, discussed instances of C.I.A. domestic file-keeping, physical surveillances, surreptitious inspection of mail, break-ins and wiretaps and said that at least 22 agents had been infiltrated into radical and dissident groups inside the United States since 1967.

Surveillance on Writers

The Washington Post reported today that it had obtained a copy of a secret Senate memorandum revealing that Mr. Colby had privately told some Senators that the agency conducted surveillance in 1971 and 1972 on a former agency employe turned author, Victor Marchetti, and at least two journalists, Jack Anderson, the columnist, and a Post reporter, Michael Getler. The three men

were reportedly suspected of obtaining classified data.

Mr. Helms's written statement about the extent of foreign involvement with the antiwar movement also appeared to contradict the previously reported results of internal C.I.A. studies in 1969 and 1970 that found no evidence of a foreign connection.

In an article of Dec. 22 reporting allegations of domestic spying by the C.I.A., a former agency official was quoted as saying that the studies, which had been ordered by the White House, were personally approved by James J. Angleton, the head of the agency's counterintelligence, before being forwarded to Henry A. Kissinger, then President Nixon's national security adviser. Mr. Angleton resigned a day after the allegations of domestic spying were published in The Times.

In his statement, Mr. Helms said that the recent widely publicized allegations about C.I.A. domestic spying "have brought undeserved embarrassment and humiliation to the patriotic and dedicated men and women of

the Central Intelligence Agency. And they, seriously damage, at least temporarily," he continued, "the function the agency is charged with performing in the national interest."

He described himself as "indignant at the irresponsible [press] attacks."

One reason for the criticism, he suggested, was the fact that the "press plainly lacked a firm understanding of the practices and precepts of American intelligence." He said there was "a fairly urgent need for educating the press" about the distinctions that exist in the intelligence community.

Mr. Helms has testified before two Senate subcommittees and the commission headed by Vice President Rockefeller since his return early this month from his ambassadorial post in Iran. He had previously denied any knowledge of "illegal" domestic activities in a brief cable sent to the State Department, and today's statement was the first detailed account of his views. He has declined all interviews thus far.