

McCone Asks Ford, Congress To Probe Charges Against CIA

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Former CIA Director John McCone and his executive director-controller, Lyman Kirkpatrick, yesterday urged President Ford and Congress to investigate charges that the Central Intelligence Agency mounted a huge campaign against antiwar forces in the United States during the Nixon era.

"I don't think an accusation as prominently displayed as this can be refuted merely on a denial by the agency itself," McCone said.

"There should be a penetrating investigation either by the Congress or by President Ford's Foreign Advisory Board."

Mr. Ford told newsmen in Grand Junction, Colo., that he had received a telephone call from CIA Director William E. Colby assuring him that "nothing comparable to what was stated in the article was



JOHN McCONE
... "I was amazed"

going on over there and I told him that under no circumstances would I tolerate any

such activities under this administration."

The President neither confirmed nor denied that he had information that activities such as those reported in Sunday's New York Times had occurred under President Nixon.

Kirkpatrick, now a professor at Brown University said: "An investigation has now become inevitable."

Both he and McCone denied, in separate Associated Press interviews, that any such program was under way when they ran the agency for several years through 1965.

If such a program, which The New York Times said included compiling intelligence dossiers on at least 10,000 American citizens including a congressman, came into existence, the intelligence experts blamed Nixon.

McCone said Nixon was

See CIA, A11, Col. 2

"unduly agitated" about antiwar groups and might have issued direct orders, bypassing normal agency channels.

"I was amazed to read the article, and in my connection as director of the agency and my connection with it since, I never heard of a single instance where the CIA stepped over its charter and involved itself with the responsibilities of the FBI," he said.

"We had the closest possible relations with the FBI when I was there. What's happened since, I don't know. It's entirely out of character for the CIA to go beyond its charter.

"They (CIA) deal with foreign intelligence."

Kirkpatrick backed up this statement.

"To the best of my knowledge," he said, "there was never anything like this. If they did, something like this, they were doing something they had no right to do and I deplore it."

The CIA gathers intelligence abroad and evaluates it at its headquarters in Northern Virginia. The FBI has an analogous task within the boundaries of the United States.

The former chief of the CIA's intelligence division, Ray S. Cline, discounted the report of domestic spying by the agency, calling The New York Times article "a pastiche of little gossipy stories." Cline, in a telephone interview with Washington Post reporter Marilyn Berger, said the CIA may well have kept a special file of names of Americans but that if it did exist, it was probably in connection with foreign intelligence activities.

Cline who joined the State Department in 1969, had left the agency by the time Nixon became President and said he could not vouch for what may have happened then. But he said he was 99 per cent certain that such domestic activities did not occur during his approximately 20 years with the agency, and was convinced that if Nixon had asked Richard Helms, the CIA director, to perform such illegal acts, "Helms would have had the good sense not to follow such orders (to carry out) domestic operations . . . He knows it's illegal, improper."

If the CIA has a file involving Americans, it could have been part of the normal sharing of information with the FBI, Cline said. "If you were ever mentioned as consorting with someone who was consorting with an alleged foreign agent, your name would be in the file," he said. But Cline said this would always be in connection with foreign intelligence surveillance.