

Ex-CIA director denies agency spied within U.S.

Washington (AP)—Richard M. Helms, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has categorically denied the agency illegally spied on anti-war activists in the United States during his tenure, the State Department said.

Sources said the current CIA director, William E. Colby, has completed and given to Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State, the report requested by President Ford on published allegations the agency illegally snooped on American citizens.

The sources said all material in Mr. Colby's report was new to Mr. Kissinger.

The sources said Mr. Kissinger would transmit Mr. Colby's report and the statement from Mr. Helms, now U.S. ambassador to Iran, to President Ford in Vail, Colo., no later than yesterday.

At Vail, the White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, said Mr. Kissinger talked to the vacationing President by telephone to confirm he had received Mr. Colby's report. See CIA, A13, Col. 1

CIA, from A1

but "did not spell out what was in the report."

A State Department spokesman said Mr. Helms sent a message to Mr. Kissinger in which he "categorically denied that under his stewardship the CIA conducted illegal domestic operations against anti-war activists, or dissidents, or that any unit to do such was created under him as director."

Mr. Helms resigned as CIA head in February, 1973.

Returning home

An embassy source in Iran reported yesterday that Mr. Helms had left Tehran and would travel to Washington after a vacation in Europe. An embassy spokesman refused to confirm the report of Mr. Helms's departure.

His message to Mr. Kissinger was disclosed Tuesday, the same day James Angleton, the head of CIA counterintelligence, said he was resigning from the agency effective at the end of the month.

Mr. Angleton's resignation came within days of published reports, which he denied, that he supervised a vast domestic spy network and reported its findings to Mr. Helms.

President Ford ordered Mr. Kissinger Monday to get a report "within a matter of days" from CIA officials.

Sources familiar with the

study made the point Tuesday that the activities described in Mr. Colby's report were not previously known to the secretary, who is the principal national security adviser to President Ford as he was to former President Nixon.

The State Department spokesman, Robert Anderson, said Mr. Kissinger will transmit the Colby report but will not evaluate or comment on it.

Mr. Anderson repeatedly emphasized that Mr. Kissinger would only be the transmittal agent. Mr. Anderson said President Ford had been told of Mr. Helms's denial.

The allegations of CIA domestic activities prompted three congressional committee chairmen to announce they would conduct investigations after Congress convenes in January.

The New York Times re-

ported Sunday that during Mr. Nixon's presidency the CIA maintained files on 10,000 American citizens associated primarily with the anti-Vietnam war movement and that agency also was engaged in break-ins and surveillance within the United States. The Times said some of the CIA domestic operations dated back to the 1950's.

Federal law prohibits the CIA from engaging in domestic intelligence operations. The FBI has responsibility for domestic counterintelligence.

Mr. Angleton, 57, a 31-year veteran of intelligence work,



JAMES ANGLETON
... quits after CIA charges

said he was resigning for the good of the agency, not because he felt he was guilty of any wrongdoing.

It was learned that public identification of him as head of counterintelligence in the CIA had been a factor in his resignation. A source said Mr. Angleton and Mr. Colby met late last week to discuss Mr. Angleton's resignation after they learned about the Times' story.

It also was learned that Mr. Angleton was interviewed nearly a year ago by the special Watergate prosecutor's office to determine if there was any link between the White House "plumbers" and CIA counterintelligence.

The interview produced nothing and the prosecutors never pursued the matter.

The Senate Watergate committee also learned that Mr. Angleton was head of some sort of super-secret CIA operation and decided to seek an interview.

Turned pale

A committee source said, "We called in the CIA [congressional] liaison man and told him we had this interview scheduled and he turned pale. He asked us where we got that name, who told us about Angleton."

The source said the Angleton interview never took place because the committee staff was unable to learn enough about his operation to know what to

ask him.

A spokesman for Mr. Kissinger said Monday that the secretary "has never seen any survey of American citizens by the CIA and he doesn't know if any such survey exists."

However, administration sources later acknowledged that a CIA survey entitled "Restless Youth," dealing with student attitudes in the United States as well as abroad, was sent to Mr. Kissinger in March 1969, at the National Security Council.

The sources said the report was a general philosophical discussion and not a product of any domestic surveillance.

The so-called Angleton affair was only the latest in a series of CIA flaps going back many years and including the agency's involvement in secretly financing American student groups during the administration of the late President Johnson and the role of former CIA employees in Watergate.