

Justice Dept. Examines Helms' Testimony on CIA

By Lawrence Meyer
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Justice Department is examining testimony given by former Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard M. Helms before congressional committees to determine whether he committed perjury, according to informed sources.

Helms has acknowledged that he gave the Senate Foreign Relations Committee incomplete information regarding the CIA's involvement in Chilean politics when he testified before the committee two years ago. In testimony before the committee last Jan. 22, Helms made public Sunday.

Helms said he should have answered "in a much more extensive way" when asked about the CIA and Chile.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Kevin T. Maroney, under whom the investigation is being conducted, declined to make any comment on the matter, but another source described the inquiry as being "exhaustive" in its scope.

Helms is understood to have been worried about his Senate testimony concerning the CIA and Chile. In addition to that testimony, however, apparent



RICHARD M. HELMS
"no intention of lying"

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HELMS, From A1

discrepancies in Helms' testimony concerning the Watergate affair also were cited in May, 1973 by Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.), then chairman of the committee, when Helms was recalled by the panel to explain his earlier testimony.

During his confirmation hearings on his nomination to be U.S. ambassador to Iran, in February 1973, Helms, in answer to questions from Fulbright, said that Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. had had no relationship with the CIA since he retired in 1970 and that Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy had had no relationship with the agency.

Following Helms' confirmation hearings, it was revealed that the CIA had provided Hunt and Liddy with equipment and documents as well as other services in connection with the September, 1971, break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Before, that the CIA had provided other assistance to Hunt.

Fulbright asked Helms on May 21, 1973, to explain the "inconsistency" or "apparent inconsistency" between Helms' testimony and what was later learned.

Helms told Fulbright that the questions at the February hearing concerned the Watergate break-in. "The Watergate break-in was all I was directing my attention to because I believed that is what you were

interested in and that is what the questions indicated you were interested in," Helms testified.

"I do not think my questions related just to Watergate," Fulbright said. "I was asking you your relationship with Hunt and Liddy. Did you have anything to do with Hunt and Liddy is what I really asked you, and if I read it correctly, you said 'No.'"

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In his confirmation hearings, Helms was asked by Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) if the CIA had tried "to overthrow the government of Chile" headed by Salvador Allende, who later died in the military coup of September, 1973. "No, sir," Helms replied.

Symington asked, "Did you have any money passed to the opponents of Allende?"

"No, sir," Helms replied.

CIA Director William Colby subsequently testified before the House Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence that CIA spent \$11 million in Chile in anti-Allende programs.

Helms told the Senate committee last month that the money went to civil action groups, newspapers and radio stations "to keep alive" opposition voices in Chile. "I did not realize that went into political parties," Helms said, referring to the CIA funds. "I did not think that it had, at least it was my understanding at the time."

Helms told the committee last month that he had "no intention of lying . . . no intention of deliberately mislead-

ing" the committee and that he had assumed "a full knowledge on the part of you gentlemen which possibly you did not have."

The Justice Department's investigation of Helms' testimony began only recently, although its initiation reportedly preceded and apparently was not related to news reports alleging that the CIA conducted illegal domestic surveillance. It was not clear, however, what prompted the department to begin examining Helms' testimony.

Proxmire Would Open CIA to GAO Scrutiny

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said yesterday the CIA and other intelligence agencies have protected themselves from congressional review by not allowing audits of their programs.

Proxmire, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, introduced legislation authorizing the General Accounting Office to audit the agencies.

Such audits, Proxmire said, would be conducted by the GAO only if requested by an official Senate or House committee with intelligence juris-

dition. The reports would not be made public unless the agencies and Congress agreed on an unclassified format.

He cited a number of instances where the GAO has been refused access to data on intelligence operations, even when asked by a committee to get the information.

"The GAO has successfully audited the most sensitive Defense Department programs for years without being denied data," Proxmire said. "Thus the obstruction of the intelligence community appears to be more of a protective device than a legitimate concern for protecting sources and methods."

U.S. Officials Harassed Greek Exile

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Now that the Greek dictatorship has collapsed, the story can be told how the White House and Justice Department connived to send a Greek exile home to certain torture and possible death.

The exile was newspaper editor Elias Demetracopoulos, who was driven from his homeland by the military junta in 1967. But the Greek colonels couldn't silence his typewriter.

He obtained resident status in the United States and took up battle station in Washington, pounding away at the junta and its Greek-American supporters.

The Nixon crowd in Washington zeroed in on him when he began firing volleys at Thomas Pappas, a millionaire with vast oil, soft-drink and chemical interests in Greece. Pappas also happened to be a close friend and financial backer of President Nixon.

So close was the Nixon-Pappas tie that the Watergate conspirators instinctively turned to the Greek tycoon for hush money, although he insists he never provided a penny for such purposes.

On July 12, 1971, Demetracopoulos appeared before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee and accused Pappas of helping to manipulate U.S. foreign policy in favor of the Greek dictatorship.

Before the testimony could be printed, a Justice Department lawyer showed up at the subcommittee and asked for Demetracopoulos' statement. Those were the days, of course, when Attorney General John Mitchell was riding high at the Justice Department.

Demetracopoulos found out Mitchell's motive from Louise Gore, a friend with strong Republican credentials, who had encountered the Attorney General at a Perle Mesta party. Miss Gore had been appointed by Nixon to be ambassador to UNESCO and expected she would need his support for a subsequent bid for the Maryland governorship. She had the courage, nevertheless, to alert Demetracopoulos.

"I went to Perle's luncheon for Martha Mitchell yesterday," wrote Miss Gore, "and sat next to John (Mitchell). He is furious at you—and your testimony

against Pappas. He kept threatening to have you deported!! . . .

"He (kept) asking me what I knew about you and why we were friends. It really got out of hand. It was all he'd talk about during lunch, and everyone at the table was listening."

The editor-in-exile received a more direct warning from President Nixon's personal trouble-shooter, the late Murray Chotiner. As Demetracopoulos remembers it, Chotiner advised him to ease up on Pappas. "You can be in trouble. You can be deported. It's not smart politics. You know Tom Pappas is a friend of the President."

Ten days after the warning, the editor, undeterred, blasted Pappas again in a memo to the House subcommittee. The memo detailed Pappas' relations with both the junta and the Nixon administration, accusing Pappas of profiting from both.

Later Demetracopoulos encountered Pappas at the Sans Souci restaurant, a favorite hangout for White House gourmets. Demetracopoulos alleges that Pappas fumed at him, suggesting he could get in trouble with the Wall Street investment firm that provided Demetracopoulos with a livelihood.

Not long afterward, the FBI visited his Wall Street employer and made inquiries about the

Greek exile. The FBI declined comment but Justice sources insist that, despite appearances, the FBI visit to Wall Street was not triggered by Mitchell and was unrelated to Pappas.

The Greek secret police, the KYP, meanwhile began questioning Demetracopoulos' former friends. The purpose, according to sources now able to speak about the junta days, was to get information to help the United States deport Demetracopoulos.

The Greek secret police allegedly told those they interviewed that they were "just helping out the CIA," which gave them financial support. By an interesting coincidence, Mitchell was on the CIA's governing committee of 40 at the time of the KYP inquiries.

Before the embattled exile could be deported and turned over to the mercy of the junta, the Watergate scandal forced Mitchell out of government and, in time, the Greek dictatorship fell. Now for the first time in eight years, Demetracopoulos is returning to Greece, not as a deportee facing torture but as a patriot.

Footnote: We were unable to reach Mitchell or Pappas for comment. Miss Gore told us that, despite the risk to her political career, she would warn Deme-

tracopoulos again if she had it to do over.

Washington Whirl—Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) has told friends he expected to be put out of action by cancer of the bladder. Instead, the cancer has been eliminated and he is in vigorous health. He has never been too religious, he has told friends, but he believes God may have spared him for a purpose. Therefore, he intends to be a champion for the common people during the economic crisis he sees ahead . . . Dr. Morris Chafetz, the contentious head of the federal anti-alcoholism effort, has stopped a promising treatment program for government employees with drinking problems. By an interesting coincidence, the program was run by Dr. George Retholtz, who had once testified against Chafetz in a discrimination case . . . In a fierce private letter to James Gregory, the federal auto safety chief, Senate Transportation Chairman Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) has said it is "completely unjustifiable" for Gregory to back down on rules requiring sturdier auto bumpers. Hartke demanded a report from Gregory within 30 days on what he has done to get Detroit to justify lighter, more dangerous bumpers.

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