

Colby Optimistic on CIA Probes Effect

By Daniel F. Gilmore

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CIA Director William E. Colby, whose agency is under investigation by two congressional committees, said yesterday the CIA "will come through" the probes and he has no intention of resigning. "I really have never felt proprietary, that I've wanted to walk away from a fight," he said in an interview.

Although he admitted the agency committed some mistakes, Colby denied he had any intention of resigning. "I really have never felt proprietary, that I've wanted to walk away from a fight," he said in an interview.

Colby had conducted a "massive CIA had conducted a 'massive' investigation of the CIA's activities in the past few years. He said the agency had done something that's wrong.

"Obviously, I serve at the pleasure of the President, so certainly don't have any intention to throw in the towel myself."

Asked if he would refuse a presidential order to carry out the operation he thought improper, Colby said:

"I am not have the authority, I have a commitment to the United States that I will refuse, if it a threat to our freedom and a danger to the republic, I gagged in uncontrolled activities," Colby said.

"I think the investigations will rather clearly indicate that the CIA has adhered essentially to its foreign intelligence mission and its activities were controlled within the limits of its proper authority and proper approvals at various times, with a few exceptions—few and far between—an things that now appear questionable or even wrong."

All this will "come into proportion," he said, "and will be weighed against an enormous improvement in our intelligence knowledge of the world."

Asked if he would refuse a presidential order to carry out the operation he thought improper, Colby said:

"I think the curfew of our country, to the welfare of our citizens, to the peace in many parts of the world."

Colby, 55, an intelligence official since World War II and CIA chief since 1937, said the agency's character and nature has changed in the last 20 years.

"It is not the same as the old image. It's a big affair now."