

Helms Faces New Quiz By Watergate Panel

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Former Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard M. Helms is returning to Washington soon from his post in Iran for another round of testimony on the agency's role in the Watergate scandal.

Helms' return visit has "no connection" with State Department business, according to State Department officials. But the Watergate special prosecutor's office is understood to want to interview the former CIA director about seeming discrepancies in his various appearances.

The interest of the special prosecutor's office is understood to focus on a June 28, 1972, memorandum from Helms to his deputy, Gen. Vernon Walters, asking that the FBI be requested to confine its Watergate inquiries in Mexico to "personalities already arrested or directly under suspicion."

The Helms memorandum also requested that the FBI "desist from expanding this investigation into other areas which may well, eventually, run afoul of our operations."

Previous testimony by Helms, Walters and other CIA officials was that the agency never sought to limit FBI inquiries into the Watergate scandal's Mexican connection. This facet of the case established a link between the Watergate bur-

glary team and the Nixon re-election committee within a week after the break-in.

Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), vice chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, said yesterday he has no intention of interviewing Helms at this time. Baker did acknowledge, however, that he is looking into published allegations that the CIA infiltrated the White House "plumbers" team and the Watergate conspirators.

Such allegations have been recently made by former CIA official Miles Copeland in the National Review and free-lance writer Andrew St. George in Harper's magazine.

St. George was questioned in executive session by the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday for the second time in a week. Afterward, acting chairman Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) said that the writer refused to divulge the source for allegations in his Harper's article that the CIA had infiltrated the Watergate burglary team.

"The authenticity of quotes in the article relating to the former Central Intelligence Agency director, Mr. Richard M. Helms, now ambassador to Iran, is still uncertain, unproven and unsupported, except perhaps by sources which Mr. St. George will not identify," Symington said.