

Report ex-CIA chief in bugging quiz again

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By Harry Kelly

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 — Special Watergate prosecutors have questioned former Central Intelligence Agency director Richard Helms about apparent conflicts in his testimony on the agency's role in the Watergate case and about allegations that a double agent secretly kept the CIA informed of the White House plumbers' activities, sources said today.

Helms, now ambassador to Iran, was summoned home over the weekend and reportedly was questioned by the Watergate prosecutors Monday. It was not clear whether Helms would appear before the Watergate grand jury.

Federal investigators are understood to have information that Eugenio Martinez, one of the imprisoned Watergate burglars, regularly reported to the intelligence agency on the plumbers' plans.

HELMS HAD earlier disclosed to the Senate Watergate committee that Martinez was on the CIA payroll at the time of the Watergate break-in. He said, however, that the Bay-of-Pigs veteran's only assignment was to find Cuban refugees who might have information useful to the CIA.

United States investigators are said to be looking into evidence that the CIA received step-by-step information from Martinez on the plans of the plumbers, the Hunt-Liddy team originally set up by the White House to find the sources of news leaks.

But senators on a special

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Richard Helms

CIA subcommittee are understood to have discounted, for lack of verification, a Harper's Magazine article by Andrew St. George that stated that Martinez reported in advance to the CIA about the Watergate project.

THE SENATORS questioned both St. George and Martinez privately. Martinez is serving a prison sentence for his part in the break-in and bugging of the Democratic National Committee offices in the Watergate building complex in the spring of 1972.

A Senate source said Martinez claimed he reported regularly to a CIA case officer in Miami about possible Cuban refugee sources but that when the mentioned contacts with E. Howard Hunt he was told not to be concerned with Hunt, that he worked for the White House.

Hunt, a former CIA agent and White House assistant, was sentenced to prison as one of the planners of the Watergate raid, along with G. Gordon Liddy, former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent and an official of the Committee to Reelect the President.

SPECIAL prosecutors are un-

derstood to have questioned Helms about what appeared to be a contradiction in his story about the intelligence agency's involvement in the Watergate affair.

In his testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee and in closed sessions with other congressional groups, Helms said he resisted heavy White House pressure to ask the FBI to limit its Watergate investigation.

But a memorandum Helms wrote to his deputy, Lt. Gen. Vernon Walters, 11 days after the Watergate burglary, appeared to read as if Helms was requesting the FBI to limit its investigation "to personalities already arrested or under suspicion."

THE MEMO, which was made public only in part, was introduced in last July's Senate confirmation hearings on the new CIA director, William E. Colby.

But Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi [D., Mich.], chairman of a House CIA subcommittee, cautioned then that it was "not accurate" to interpret the memo to mean Helms tried to restrict the FBI's Watergate investigation.

To clear up what he said was speculation in the press and elsewhere about apparent conflicts between Helms' testimony and his memo, Colby wrote a four-page explanatory memo to the Senate Armed Services Committee's acting chairman, Stuart Symington, D., Mo., Nov. 7.

THE COLBY memo contended that Helms' concern that sensitive CIA operations might be compromised by "leakage in the FBI" as well as fears the FBI might conduct "a fishing expedition" into CIA operations led the former director to propose clear limits on the FBI's Watergate investigation in Mexico.

The conflict was first mentioned—but without specific reference to Helms—when former Special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the end of October.