

Colby Report to Ford Is Said To Confirm Domestic Spying

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By Jack Nelson
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A report prepared by CIA Director William E. Colby for President Ford substantiates allegations that the agency has engaged in illegal domestic spying on American citizens, an informed government source said yesterday.

The source told the Los Angeles Times his information was that the Colby report shows that the CIA kept records on more than 9,000 Americans. He said he got his information from a CIA official who had access to the report.

"My information is that the report also confirms allegations that the CIA engaged in other clandestine domestic activities, including at least three illegal entries," the source said. "Two of the entries were against former CIA employees suspected of slipping over to the other side."

[The law authorizing the CIA states that the director "shall be responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.]

The 50-page Colby report was prepared on orders of Mr. Ford after The New York Times reported that the CIA had engaged in massive illegal domestic spying during previous administrations. It was delivered to the President Friday in Vail, Colo., where he is on a skiing vacation.

Mr. Ford has said he will not discuss the report or the CIA until after his return to Washington Thursday.

In another development, Reps. Phillip Burton (D-Calif.) and Elizabeth Holtzman (D-N.Y.) said that when Congress reconvenes Jan. 14 they will introduce legislation to establish a special prosecutor's office and a select congressional committee to investigate allegations against the CIA.

Burton, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, said the legislation also will be aimed at modifying the CIA's 1947 charter to strengthen its prohibitions against domestic spying by the agency.

In Vail, White House press secretary Ron Nessen refused to say whether the resignations of four top CIA counterintelligence officers in recent

days were linked to the allegations of domestic spying.

"If there is a CIA shakeup, has the President had any hand in it?" a reporter asked.

"He is not aloof from the topside of CIA," Nessen replied. "I can assure you he is aware of what is going on at CIA."

The Associated Press, meanwhile, reported it had learned that the name of at least one of the officers — counterintelligence chief James J. Angleton — was mentioned in "one draft" of the Colby report that went to the President.

Angleton, who has denied any involvement in illegal activities, was identified by The New York Times as overseer of the domestic spy operation.