

CIA Probe Asked for By Clifford

By Ronald Kessler

Washington Post Staff Writer

Former Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford yesterday called for creation of a congressional committee similar to the one that investigated the Watergate scandal to probe charges that the Central Intelligence Agency engaged in domestic spying.

Clifford, who helped draft the 1947 legislation creating the agency, said a joint committee of the House and Senate, with an adequate staff is needed to air the charges that appeared in last Sunday's New York Times.

The Times alleged that the CIA had mounted a massive, illegal domestic spying operation during the Nixon administration. The activities were said to include creation of files on 10,000 antiwar dissidents, wiretapping, mail interception and break-ins.

The legislation creating the CIA makes it clear that it may not engage in domestic activities, Clifford said in a telephone interview yesterday.

"There have been a series of incidents that have involved the CIA," he said. "It seems to me we should have an investigation in depth. The time has come for the Congress to look searchingly into the CIA in light of conditions in 1975 to see if improvements are needed in the act." The 94th Congress will convene Jan. 14.

President Ford yesterday received a 50-page report on the allegations from CIA Director William E. Colby. Ford said he would not rule out making the report public, although presidential spokesman Ron Nessen later said parts of the report are classified.

The alleged overseer of the spying operation, James Angleton, former director of the CIA's counterintelligence division, was quoted yesterday by United Press International as saying he resigned from the agency because "higher authorities" wanted him to leave.

In an earlier, Washington Post interview, Angleton said he had been asked some time ago about his activities at the CIA by the office of Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.