

Johnson Aides Reply to CIA Chiefs

By Seymour M. Hersh
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Four former high-ranking members of the Johnson administration said yesterday that they knew of no presidential directive ordering the Central Intelligence Agency to set up a special office in 1967 to handle domestic intelligence about radical and anti-war groups.

In testimony before a Senate subcommittee Thursday, Richard Helms, former CIA director, said that the agency had set up a special office to monitor domestic anti-war activities "in response to the express concern of the President."

Helms, who is now the ambassador to Iran, did not specify which President had expressed the concern.

On Wednesday, however, William Colby, the present agency director, told another Senate subcommittee that Helms had authorized the special office on Aug. 15, 1967, when questions were "raised as to whether foreign stimulation or support was being provided to this dissident activity." Lyndon Johnson was president at that time.

The four former Johnson administration officials — Dean Rusk, former secretary of state; Walt Rostow, former national security adviser; Joseph Califano, former special assistant; and James Jones, former appointments secretary — took exception to Helms' implica-

Colombian Consul in S.F. Is Appointed

Alvaro Munevar has been appointed the new Colombian consul in San Francisco, it was announced yesterday.

Munevar, a career diplomat, will have jurisdiction in Nevada, Idaho, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, as well as California.

He replaces former Consul Constantino Casabuenas, who has left to fill a post in Bogota.

tion that the CIA's domestic operations were initiated because of concern voiced by Mr. Johnson.

The four Johnson aides commented on the Helms' testimony in telephone interviews.

"I was stunned, I was really stunned when I read the story" about Mr. Helms' testimony, said Califano, who was directly involved in the White House response to the civil rights riots and disturbances in the 1960s.

The former aide said he had "no knowledge" of any presidential directive authorizing the CIA to begin collecting domestic intelligence.

Jones, now a Democratic

congressman from Oklahoma, who served in the presidential appointments office from 1965 to 1969, also recalled hearing Mr. Johnson mention his suspicions about the origins of the anti-war movement.

"I never heard him give any kind of order, direction or receive any kind of direct report from the CIA," about domestic activities, Jones said.

While working in the appointments office, Jones said, he monitored all requests of federal agencies to and from the President.

Rusk, now a professor at the University of Georgia, similarly said, "I must confess that I never heard of an internal security section of the CIA and when the head of it resigned, 'I'd never heard of him.'"

Rusk was referring to James Angleton, the former director of the agency's counterintelligence division, who resigned one day after the first published reports about the agency's domestic activities.

In his testimony Wednesday, Colby confirmed that the special office set up by Angleton and Helms had infiltrated at least 22 undercover agents into the anti-war movement as part of a domestic counterintelligence effort that resulted in the accumulation of files on 10,000 Americans.

Rusk did recall, however, that the Johnson administration had developed some "hard evidence" that foreign intelligence services were involved in supporting the anti-war efforts in the United States.

But the administration decided not to make its information available, Rusk added, because "we didn't want to smear all the others who were legitimately against the war."

Rostow, now a professor at the University of Texas, said he has "no memory" of any presidential order calling upon the CIA to begin domestic anti-war operations, "and I suspect I would have."

Another high-ranking Johnson administration official, who did not wish to be identified, said that the CIA and other intelligence agencies were asked to make assessments of domestic unrest following the student disturbances in the United States, France, Britain, Japan and West Germany in the late 1960s.