

JAN 22 1975
HELMS REJECTED
C.I.A. ACTION IN U.S.
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Told Senators in 1973 That
 Domestic Surveillance
 Was Not Agency Duty

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 21 —

Richard Helms assured the Senate Foreign Relations Committee two years ago that the domestic surveillance of antiwar activists was not a proper function for the Central Intelligence Agency, a review of previously published testimony showed today.

At the time, Mr. Helms was head of the C.I.A., and the agency was engaging in a secret domestic program that involved the infiltration of "about a dozen" undercover agents into American dissident circle, according to testimony given last week by William E. Colby, the current Director of Central Intelligence.

Mr. Helms, Director of Central Intelligence from 1966 to 1973, returns to the Foreign Relations Committee tomorrow to testify anew on this and other possible conflicts in his testimony, taken in 1973 when he was undergoing confirmation hearings on his nomination to be Ambassador to Iran.

Some senators and aides were known to have extensively reviewed other statements by Mr. Helms and previously published C.I.A. documents in an effort to determine whether they had been misled in the earlier testimony.

Resolution on Committee

Meanwhile, Senator John O. Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island, introduced in the Senate today a resolution to create an 11-member bipartisan select committee to investigate all of the C.I.A. and other Government domestic and foreign operations intelligence units.

A final vote on the proposal was scheduled for Monday, with both Republicans and Democrats predicting its passage. Once the committee is approved, Senators' Mike Mansfield of Montana, the majority leader, will select the six Democrats and five Republicans who will serve on it.

"Neither a witch hunt nor a whitewash will be here conducted," Mr. Mansfield assured the Senate after the resolution was introduced. "Nor will any dismantling of the intelligence community be here attempted."

Mr. Helms and Mr. Colby have already appeared before two Senate subcommittees and the President's blue-ribbon commission to testify about the C.I.A.'s domestic activities.

Mr. Helms's testimony tomorrow before the Foreign Relations Committee will deal, to a great extent, with his previous statements, Senate aides said.

Some Senators already have complained about the apparent discrepancy in Mr. Helms's assertion two years ago that he could not recall whether the White House had ever requested him to begin domestic operations during periods of large-scale antiwar activity. In a statement released last week, he said that the C.I.A. had begun such activities "in response to the direct concern of the President" about growing antiwar and dissident demonstrations.

Mr. Helms testified twice in 1973 before the Foreign Relations Committee, in February and May, and said in his second appearance, after the Watergate cover-up began to unravel, that the C.I.A. "totally and 100 per cent resisted" efforts to involve it in domestic activities that properly were within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He also testified that he did not know that E. Howard Hunt Jr. was "going to be involved in domestic activities" either before or after the former C.I.A. agent was provided C.I.A. equipment in connection with his involvement in the White House-directed burglary in 1971 of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

"As a matter of fact," Mr. Helms told the Senators, "it is quite clear from the testimony that has been raised before other committees up to now that nobody knew he [Mr. Hunt] was going to be involved in any domestic activity."

In a memorandum published last year by the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry, a C.I.A. official who dealt with Mr. Hunt in 1971 told of breaking off contact with him because "his requests appeared to involve the agency in domestic clandestine operations." The memorandum, supplied by Karl Wagner, who was an aide to the deputy director of the C.I.A. in 1971, was reprinted as part of the Judiciary Committee's inquiry into the Justice Department's handling of the initial Watergate investigation.