

Ex-CIA Chief



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RICHARD HELMS
"Killer Schorr!"

Washington

Former Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms yesterday bitterly denounced a newsman for reporting charges that the CIA carried out the assassination of foreign leaders.

Helms made the comments to reporters after an appearance of nearly three hours before the Rockefeller commission — the longest appearance by any of the 44 witnesses who have testified

during its 16-week investigation of the CIA.

Helms' target was CBS reporter Daniel Schorr, who first reported that President Ford was concerned that the CIA investigation would reveal the spy agency had a role in the assassination of at least three foreign leaders.

"Killer Schorr! Killer Schorr!" Helms said loudly as he walked down the hallway with reporters after his appearance before the presi-

dential commission headed by Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller.

Later during a news conference when Schorr asked a question on a subject unrelated to the assassinations, Helms would only answer: "I don't like some of the lies you've been putting on the air."

"I just want to say one thing. I don't know of any foreign leader that was ever assassinated by the CIA. That's my honest belief."

Lambastes a Newsman

Schorr was asked about Helms' denunciation.

"My reports speak for themselves and, oddly enough, nobody in the administration has denied them," he replied.

Helms bristled when newsmen asked him if there had ever been discussions in the CIA about plotting the assassinations of foreign leaders.

"That's like asking me if I've stopped beating my

wife," Helms said.

"There were always discussions of everything. Two men may have sat in the State Department or the Defense Department and discussed things that may not be acceptable to the American people. That happens all the time."

Helms refused to comment on reports that former President Lyndon B. Johnson told several colleagues he believed the assassina-

tion of President John F. Kennedy was in retaliation for a CIA plot aimed at Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

"I don't know why President Johnson said these things," Helms said.

Helms, who is now ambassador to Iran, was director of the CIA from 1966 to early 1973. Reports have charged that during the anti-war movement in the late 1960s the CIA was engaged in a massive domestic spying

San Francisco Chronicle 15

★ Tues., April 29, 1975

program, which is illegal under its charter.

Helms said his testimony "covered all kinds of subjects — Cuba, Vietnam, anything you can imagine."

He refused to comment about the specific charges of domestic spying, saying: "Let's wait until the commission has given its report. They've conducted an exhaustive investigation."

United Press