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(Clipping filed ~~North Vietnam~~)

CIA NOT CONSULTED ON SON TAY RAID

Washington

President Nixon and Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird gave the go-ahead order for the raid on the Son Tay POW camp in North Vietnam without consulting the Central Intelligence Agency, it was learned yesterday.

Key Senators who have been concerned about the possibility of an intelligence failure and who have been quietly probing into the background of the mission were incredulous when they learned that the CIA was not involved.

"It's absolutely incredible," said one influential Senator familiar with Defense and Intelligence matters and who has not been critical of the Administration's policy in Vietnam. "What the hell do we have a CIA and a director of Central Intelligence for?"

Senator [Senatorial?] sources indicated that CIA director Richard Helms may have been advised of the Son Tay operation in its early planning stage - perhaps in August or September - but that neither he nor the CIA was further consulted prior to the raid on November 20.

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