

Chief of C.I.A. Is Reported Conferring in Israel

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JERUSALEM, June 29—Richard Helms, director of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, has arrived in Israel for meetings with Government analysts, reliable Israeli sources said today.

This is understood to be the first visit to Israel of a C.I.A. director.

The trip has not been announced, and tight censorship regulations were imposed on publication of news in Israel of Mr. Helms's activities. The Foreign Ministry declined to comment when asked about his presence in the country, and a spokesman for the United States Embassy said he had "no information" on the reports.

Among the main purposes of Mr. Helms's visit is believed to be an examination with Israeli authorities of the growing Soviet role in the Arab world and



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Richard Helms

the eastern Mediterranean. He is also expected to gather information for the Nixon Administration's current assessment of

Israel's security needs over the coming year and beyond.

The United States Ambassador, Walworth Barbour, is said to be personally arranging the schedule of meetings during Mr. Helms's three- or four-day visit.

It is unusual for the director of intelligence to travel abroad, largely because American diplomats believe that his public presence could embarrass other governments. On the other hand, some diplomats believe that such a personal interest is also a signal of United States interest and commitment in another country that is not likely to go unnoticed.

In most countries, including Israel, persons in such a position are not publicly known figures, though United States Administrations have not followed

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this practice.

Israeli sources said there had been a possibility up to the last minute that Mr. Helms's visit might be canceled, particularly if there had been premature publicity. Several times previously, such American officials as Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and Allen W. Dulles, both of whom had directed the C.I.A., are known to have canceled scheduled visits to Israel shortly before they were to have taken place.