

# Ex-CIA Director

## Denies Allegations Agency's Counterspy Chief Quits

By Seymour M. Hersh  
New York Times

Washington

The State Department said yesterday that Richard Helms, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency who is now ambassador to Iran, has categorically denied that the CIA conducted any "illegal" domestic spying under his leadership.

But James Angleton, who has just been forced to resign as chief of the counter-intelligence department and who has been publicly linked to the spying, was quoted yesterday as saying that he agreed with some of the allegations that were published Sunday by the New York Times. <sup>DEC</sup>

The Times quoted well-placed government sources as saying the CIA had violated its charter by mounting a massive, illegal intelligence operation during the Nixon administration against the anti-war movement and other dissident groups in the United States. Intelligence files on at least 10,000 American citizens were compiled, the sources said.

There is "something to it," Angleton told United Press International.

Meantime, Representative Lucien Nedzi, chairman of the intelligence subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, said in a television interview: "There's been an overstepping of bounds," by the CIA.

"You might call it illegalities in terms of exceeding their charter," Nedzi (Dem-Mich.) said.

The denial from Helms was reported by Robert Anderson, State Department

Back Page Col. 8

From Page 1

spokesman, as controversy continued to grow over the spying allegations.

The spokesman told newsmen that Helms, who will arrive in Washington in about a week on a pre-arranged home leave, telegraphed his denial in response to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's request for a report.

Anderson, quoting from the telegram, said Helms had "categorically denied that under his stewardship the CIA conducted illegal domestic operations against anti-war activists or dissidents, or that any unit to do such was created under him as director."

Anderson also announced that Kissinger expects to receive a report on the alleged domestic spying from William Colby, the current CIA director, and would forward it to President Ford, who is now on vacation at Vail, Colo. <sup>DEC</sup>

Word of Angleton's resignation became known late Monday. Well-informed sources told the Times that Colby had met with Angleton last Friday and requested that he end his 31-year intelligence career. <sup>DEC</sup>

In a telephone interview with the New York Times yesterday morning, Angleton, who said he had not slept the previous night, accused the Times of "helping out the KGB (Soviet intelligence service) a great deal" by publishing his

name and title in its Sunday dispatch. "You've done them a great favor," he said.

Asked repeatedly about alleged wrong-doing, Angleton acknowledged that "I've got problems." He explained his domestic activities this way:

"A mansion has many rooms and there were many things going on during the period of the (anti-war) bombings. I'm not privy to who struck John."

Later, the counterintelligence chief permitted newsmen from three television networks to interview him. He was also quoted by UPI as saying that he had quit the CIA because it was getting involved in domestic "police state" activities.

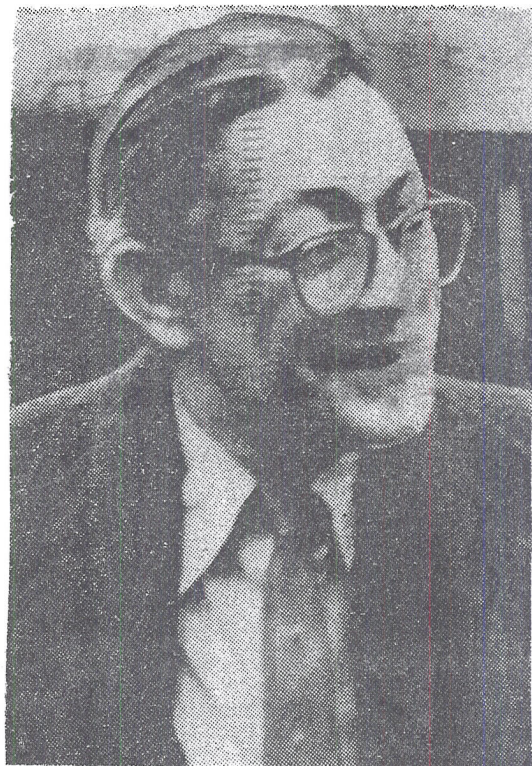
A number of present and former CIA officials expressed pleasure at the forced resignation of Angleton, who was described as being in poor health.

"Jim's fear about foreign intelligence has always approached the ridiculous," one former agency official said.

Nedzi's televised interview marked the first public confirmation that any domestic wrongdoing has been committed by the CIA.

"But the question of whether there's any ground for criminal prosecution still remains," Nedzi added. "I'm not aware of anything in the statute which set up the agency that provides for criminal sanctions."

Nedzi, who is known to have discussed the domestic spying allegations at length last week with Colby, noted that "the information which was given me does not square with the information that has appeared in the allegations and the wider implications of the stories that are circulating presently."



AP Wirephoto

FORMER CIA AIDE JAMES ANGLETON  
He was forced to resign

Longer version, NYT  
same date, filed  
CIA (domestic).

He said he plans to call Colby to testify during hearings into the CIA's domestic activities.

Additional planned hearings were announced yesterday by Senator Edmund Muskie (Dem-Maine), whose Senate government operations subcommittee met for two days earlier this month to hear testimony about re-vamping congressional oversight of the CIA.

Muskie said he plans to initiate discussions early next week with Senator John Stennis (Dem-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to determine whether his subcommittee can share access to classified intelligence material, which traditionally has only been supplied to the Stennis group.