

## Secretary Resor

# Army Denies Spying Reports

Washington

The Army strongly denied yesterday ever spying on Illinois members of Congress, saying such allegations "are without foundation in fact."

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor said that after a preliminary check "I can state that neither Senator Stevenson, Representative Mikva nor former Governor Kerner are or ever have been the subject of military intelligence activities or investigations related to political activities."

He said the investigation is continuing.

### CHARGES

The denial came in response to charges made Wednesday by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.) that Army agents collected intelligence information on Senator Adlai Stevenson III, former Illinois Governor Otto Kerner, now a federal judge, and Representative Abner Mikva.

All three are Democrats.

There were reports by a former Army intelligence agent that the military also gathered data on several other Illinois political figures

but Resor's statement was limited to Stevenson, Mikva and Kerner.

Pentagon spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim said allegations concerning other individuals would have to be checked out separately.

### STATEMENT

Resor declared that had any of the alleged intelligence gathering activities been carried out they would have been in violation of Army policies.

The Defense Department and the Army are 'gravely concerned about the allegations,' Resor said.

"I want to reaffirm the Army's desire to continue its full cooperation with Senator Ervin and other members of Congress who share my concern that there must be no abuses whatsoever of military intelligence responsibilities," Resor said in his statement.

### ZITGLER

The White House issued a statement yesterday opposing domestic spying and presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler

will not be done under this Administration.

Asked if President Nixon

had ordered such activities to stop, Ziegler replied "For me to answer that would suggest that it is going on. I would refer you to what the Secretary of Defense has said — it is not going on in any way at this time."

Ziegler said Mr. Nixon had taken action "from the standpoint of expressing his point of view about it and making sure that this is absolutely not occurring and absolutely will not occur under his Administration."

Associated Press