

Long-Time Professional Spy [Profile of Richard Helms]

by David E. Rosenbaum

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There are many rumors, none of them confirmed as accurate, about the reasons for Mr. Helms's departure as Director of Central Intelligence at the beginning of this year.

One is that Mr. Helms had always insisted on others retiring from the agency at age 60 and that it was thus incumbent upon him to do so. Another is that Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser, was dissatisfied with Mr. Helms's direction of intelligence operations, a rumor that Mr. Kissinger has vigorously and publicly denied.

In the last week, another [typo] with disclosures that Mr. Helms refused to cooperate with H.R. Haldeman and other White House officials in various domestic operations.

When the Foreign Relations Committee asked Mr. Helms today if that was why he was removed from the C.I.A. and sent to Iran, he responded, "I do not know."
