

Memos challenge FBI spying 'halt'

By Harry Kelly
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WASHINGTON — Congressional investigators have obtained FBI memos indicating that at least part of a secret domestic intelligence plan was still in operation months after President Nixon said he called it off.

The internal FBI memos from the fall of 1970 approve both FBI recruitment of teenage informants for the first time and "discreet" investigations of black student organizations on college campuses.

The plan, drawn up by Tom Huston, a presidential assistant who wrote the proposal, urged the use of wiretaps, surveillance, mail covers, and burglaries against those considered to be domestic subversives.

In a May 22 statement in which Nixon tried to explain Watergate ramifications, he acknowledged he had approved the Huston Plan July 15, 1970, as a response to what he said was a need for a greatly improved domestic intelligence operation.

But Nixon said the plan was abandoned only five days later because of opposition by the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover.

One of the Huston Plan recommendations was that "present restrictions should be relaxed to permit expanded coverage of violence-prone campuses and student-related groups."

Congressional sources have uncovered an FBI memo, dated Sept. 26, 1970, about two months after the President said the plan was dropped, which authorizes recruitment of young informers.

"The director," said the memo, "has okayed PSIS (Potential Security Informants) and SIS (Security Informants) age 18 to 21. We have been blocked off from this critical age group in the past. Let us take advantage of this opportunity."

A second FBI memo, dated Nov. 4, 1970, broke ground by authorizing FBI investigations of black campus organizations.