

Haig Tells Of Asking FBI Checks

Washington

Alexander M. Haig Jr., while an assistant to Henry Kissinger, asked the FBI to place under surveillance some of the government officials who became targets of a controversial wiretap program, according to Senate testimony made public Saturday.

General Haig, who told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in July that he "never viewed myself as anything but an extension of Dr. Kissinger," testified that in passing the names of officials to the FBI, he had been told to ask "generally that they be surveilled."

Kissinger, who was President Nixon's national security adviser when the wiretaps were begun in May, 1969, has maintained publicly and under oath that he never initiated or recommended the use of electronic surveillance as a means of finding and stopping leaks of sensitive foreign policy information to the news media.

Kissinger repeatedly has described his role as one of submitting to the FBI the names of subordinates on the National Security Council staff who fitted three prearranged criteria for possible sources of "leaks."

The Foreign Relations Committee, which confirmed Kissinger's nomination as secretary of state last September, held special hearings last summer after Kissinger requested them as a means of clearing up his role in the wiretap affair.

The committee agreed unanimously in August that Kissinger had not misled it

during his confirmation hearings about his participation in the 21-month-long search for leaks, and investigation for which former President Nixon has said he gave full authorization.

The transcript of the closed hearings contains a number of deletions requested by the state department and the FBI on national security grounds.

At one point, Senator J. William Fulbright, the committee chairman, asked Haig, "what were you told to ask the FBI to do when you submitted names to them ask that a general investigation be made of the individuals, that they be interviewed or only that wiretaps be installed on their homes?"

"Generally that they be surveilled," Haig replied.

"It was clear to me that that would probably include wiretapping. I wasn't the least bit naive about it, senator."

Haig was named by President Ford last week as supreme commander of allied forces in Europe.

He was asked whether he could assure the committee "that Dr. Kissinger at no time was responsible for the initiating of these requests on these people," a reference to the 13 government officials and four newsmen who were tapped for varying lengths of time between May, 1969, and February, 1971.

"I do not know that I can say that categorically," Haig replied. "What I can say is this: It was my distinct impression that in no instance did I receive instructions from Dr. Kissinger where he had not either received or participated in the decision that brought those instructions to me."

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