

# Schlesinger on CIA 'Spying'

Washington

Defense Secretary James Schlesinger said yesterday that charges of domestic spying by the CIA have been exaggerated, but a justice department official confirmed the CIA was given the names of up to 12,000 dissidents in 1970.

Schlesinger, a former CIA chief, withdrew his Monday statement that the Central Intelligence Agency had committed a small number of "misdemeanors" and instead used the word "inappropriate" to describe some CIA activities over the past 20 years.

He said "misdemeanor" is a legal term and it is up to lawyers to decide if the acts where illegal.

The charges have touched off congressional investigations.

Chairman John Stennis of the Senate Armed Services Committee held a closed session of the panel yesterday afternoon to prepare for a formal hearing tomorrow and Friday with CIA Director William E. Colby and former director Richard Helms.

Schlesinger, questioned by reporters, refused to detail the "inappropriate" activities.

Asked specifically about reports the CIA had kept 10,000 files on Americans, Schlesinger said: "That sto-

ry is overblown. . . . There were no activities in such numbers.

In a statement appearing to conflict with Schlesinger's comment, Deputy Attorney General Laurence H Silberman disclosed that the Justice department handed the CIA a computerized list of 10,000 to 12,000 American radicals in 1970.

The list was composed, Silberman said, by the inter-divisional information unit created by Attorney General Ramsey Clark in 1967 to watch Vietnam war dissidents.

"We have been advised that the CIA never put the tape to use and it was destroyed in March 1974," Silberman said.

"It is not clear whether CIA initiated the request for the subject data," Silberman said. "It is more likely that the Justice Department initiated the action by requesting the CIA to check against its own sources whether any of the individuals on the list were engaged in foreign travel or received foreign assistance or funding."

Meanwhile, senators said a consensus developed at an all-day caucus of Senate Democrats yesterday to establish a single Senate committee to probe allegations of illegal domestic spying by the CIA.

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