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FORMER CIA CHIEF RICHARD HELMS  
'I don't feel disgraced at all'

## Judge Gives Helms Reprimand and Fine

Washington

Former CIA director Richard Helms was fined \$2000, given a suspended two-year prison sentence and sternly rebuked by a federal judge for having failed to testify "fully and accurately" before a Senate committee in 1973 about covert operations in Chile.

Helms, who had pleaded no contest to two misdemeanor charges on Monday, later told reporters he considered the conviction a badge of honor, and that he felt no disgrace for it.

"I don't feel disgraced at all," the 64-year-old Helms said. "I think if I had done anything else, I would have been disgraced."

Helms, who is the first former intelligence officer to be convicted of withholding information from a congressional committee, said in a statement he released after the sentencing that at the time he was asked about the covert operations in Chile, he felt bound by his oath as a CIA official "to protect intelligence sources and methods."

His attorney, Edward Bennett

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Williams, said both in court and at a meeting with reporters outside the court building that for Helms to have answered the questions fully and accurately would have been damaging to the national interest.

"He was sworn not to disclose the very things that he was being requested by the committee to disclose," Williams said. "Had he done so, he would have sacrificed American lives, he would have sacrificed friends of ours in Chile, and he would have violated his oath . . ."

This argument had earlier been rejected by Justice Department prosecutors and Attorney General Griffin Bell as being no excuse for not having testified truthfully and fully to the Senate.

It also was rejected yesterday by U.S. District Judge Barrington Parker, who told Helms, "You now stand before this court in disgrace and shame" for not having testified fully.

"If public officials embark deliberately on a course to disobey and ignore the laws of our land because of some misguided and ill-conceived notion and belief that there are earlier commitments and considerations which they must first observe, the future of the country is in jeopardy," the judge said.

Judge Parker's rebuke was delivered in stern, at times harsh, tones. But at the end he followed the recommendation of the Justice Department that Helms not be required to serve any time in jail, and not be subjected to supervised probation.

The charges to which Helms had pleaded nolo contendere or no contest, on Monday are misdemeanor violations of a federal statute concerning obstruction of congressional inquiries.

The maximum penalty for each of the two counts is a \$1000 fine and one year in jail. The minimum penalty on each count is a \$100 fine and 30 days in jail.

The only requirement placed on Helms by the court is to pay the \$2000 in fines — although he also has agreed to testify truthfully in any criminal actions the government may bring against others who are still under investigation for possible perjury in connection with

their testimony about CIA operations in Chile.

Spokesmen for both Bell, who accepted the plea bargaining arrangement, and President Carter, who endorsed it, said the sentencing brought the matter to a satisfactory close.

Bell, in a statement released by his office, said the disposition of the case "vindicates the law and upholds the rights of the Congress" to investigate the intelligence agencies.