

Laird Says Saigon Is Ready on Arms

Washington, Jan. 8 - .....

Richard Helms, the outgoing Director of Central Intelligence, gave a briefing today to the Senate Armed Services Committee, which met in closed session.

Afterward Mr. Helms said the report had been his Annual "round the world" review, and added, "there's not much to suck out of it."

But Senator William B. Saxbe, Republican of Ohio, said Mr. Helms had provided "startling" information, although the Senator did not give details.

He did say, however that the "prime thing" Mr. Helms had talked about was the North Vietnamese "ability to wage war." "It's not much diminished," Mr. Saxbe added.

[Complete.]

U.S. Could Now Quit Vietnam, Laird Says

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by Michael Getler *WSX POST*

.... About 87 per cent of the entire U.S. intelligence budget (unofficially estimated at about \$5 billion annually) is paid for by the Pentagon, Laird revealed. But he warned against making the product of that intelligence effort anything but "objective and independent," whether it comes from the Pentagon, CIA or military services.

Some Defense officials interpreted this as backing for departing CIA Director Richard Helms who, in some accounts, was described as having suffered inside the administration because of differing assessments between the CIA and other groups.

[Complete.]