

Furor in Congress

Over CIA Report

Proxmire To Demand Probe

By Seymour M. Hersh
New York Times

Washington

Senator William Proxmire called yesterday for the resignation of Richard Helms, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, as ambassador to Iran, and said he will demand a Justice Department investigation of alleged CIA domestic spying.

The New York Times reported yesterday morning that according to well-placed government sources the CIA, in direct violation of its charter, had mounted massive, illegal intelligence operations during the Nixon administration against the anti-war movement and other dissident groups inside the United States.

Proxmire's reaction was among widespread calls by members of Congress and former intelligence officials for an investigation and hearings.

The Times's sources said that the CIA under Helms, who was named ambassador to Iran in February, 1973, after heading the CIA since 1966, had established intelligence files on at least 10,000 American citizens.

Helms again could not be reached at the embassy in Teheran for comment.

In yesterday's report, the sources said that the CIA had conducted dozens of illegal activities inside the United States since the 1950s in connection with counterintelligence operations against suspected foreign agents.

Under the 1947 law estab-

lishing the agency, all domestic intelligence functions, including those aimed at suspected foreign agents, were to be conducted by the FBI.

(President Ford, meanwhile said he had informed the CIA that he would not tolerate any intelligence operation within the United States.

(Mr. Ford made the statement in response to report-

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Longer NYT version, same date, carries quotations from John A. McCone.

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ers' questions aboard his presidential jet as he flew from Washington to Vail, Colo. for a ten-day Christmas vacation.

(He said he had had some "partial information" about a massive, illegal intelligence operation by the CIA under the Nixon administration.

(At that time, he said, he informed the agency that "this administration would not tolerate it."

(He said that after reading an account of the alleged illegal CIA activities in yesterday's New York Times, he received a call aboard the plane from CIA Director William Colby in Washington who assured him that "nothing comparable" to what was described in the story is going on now.

("I told him under no circumstances would I tolerate any such activities under this administration," the President said.)

Proxmire, a leading critic of the CIA in recent years who has pressed for public disclosure of the secret CIA budget and has co-sponsored legislation that would restrict the agency's activities, said in a telephone interview that "the allegations indicate a systematic pattern of illegal activities that cannot be justified in the name of national security."

tion of the law."

CIA officials refused to comment yesterday, but Colby, CIA director since September, 1973, is known to have told his associates recently that he was considering a request to the Justice Department for legal action against some of those who had been involved in the alleged domestic activities.

Representative Benjamin Rosenthal, (Dem-N.Y.) a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a telephone conversation that he is planning to write Kissinger requesting the return of Helms for questioning before the committee.

Representative Lucien Nedzi (Dem-Mich.), who is chairman of the armed services intelligence subcommittee, said he wants to "sort this thing out and look at the pieces."

"I'm very concerned about it," Nedzi said.

Senator Stuart Symington, (Dem-Mo.), who is the second-ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, indicated in a telephone conversation yesterday that he had not been officially briefed on the alleged domestic spying.

"If the story is true," Symington said, "and I'm speaking as a member for many years of the subcommittee that is supposed to review the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency, it simply verifies the point that I've been making for many years, namely, that this agency does not have good supervision, or review by the Congress, or poor review. It actually has no review at all."

In an interview on radio in Raleigh, N.C., Senator Sam Ervin former chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, said he believes the reports of alleged widespread CIA domestic spying.

The North Carolina Democrat said he had become aware of some unauthorized CIA activities while serving with the Watergate committee, but had decided not to pursue the matter.

"Immediate and severe action is necessary," the Wisconsin Democrat said, "to preserve confidence in the intelligence establishment and, more importantly, to guarantee the rights of Americans under the Fourth Amendment."

Proxmire said he will write Secretary of State Henry Kissinger today "to ask for the immediate resignation of Ambassador Helms."

"I also intend to write the attorney general," the Senator said, "to ask for the prompt investigation of these allegations of illegal activities by CIA agents, past or present, and the prosecution of every viola-