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Clark Urges Total Ban On Wiretaps

Washington

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark testified yesterday he turned down FBI requests to break into a United Nations foreign mission and to tap the Washington telephone of Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

Clark testified before a congressional hearing looking into the government's wiretapping policy. He said all wiretapping should be abolished but another former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson said it was necessary to the national security.

Clark said he once rejected a request from the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for permission to break into the foreign mission at the United Nations "to procure cryptographic materials to facilitate decoding of intercepted transmissions." He did not give the nationality of the mission.

Hoover, according to Clark, sought approval for the break-in "apparently at the request of the National Security Agency," which is the major U.S. agency dealing with foreign codes.

Clark said the request to tap Eban's telephone came while he was visiting this country, but he did not indicate when the request was made.

Clark told the hearing that

he wished Congress would decide that electronic surveillance and wiretapping are "not worth the price we pay in public morality."

But Richardson told the senators "electronic surv-

eillance has been, and continues to be, an important tool in the President's conduct of the nation's foreign relations and his protection of the national security."

United Press