

C.I.A. HEAD ADMITS 'ILL-ADVISED ACT'

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Schlesinger Calls Agency
'Insufficiently Cautious' in
Role in Ellsberg Case

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WASHINGTON, May 9—The head of the Central Intelligence Agency said today that the agency had been "insufficiently cautious" in providing materials to a White House aide involved in the burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

"It was an ill-advised act," said James R. Schlesinger, who was named Director of Central Intelligence earlier this year.

Mr. Schlesinger's comments came as he emerged from a closed hearing being conducted by a Senate Appropriations subcommittee inquiring into the agency's involvement in the Pentagon papers case.

In his testimony, made available later by the subcommittee, Mr. Schlesinger confirmed earlier reports that the request for agency assistance was made in the summer of 1971 by John D. Ehrlichman, a key Presidential adviser who resigned just last week.

Mr. Schlesinger testified that it was Mr. Ehrlichman who had telephoned Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., at that time

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deputy director of the C.I.A. and now commandant of the Marine Corps, requesting agency assistance for E. Howard Hunt Jr., a White House aide who has confessed taking part in the burglary of the psychiatrist's office.

Senator John L. McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee investigating C.I.A. involvement, said the panel "may very well need Mr. Ehrlichman's testimony."

Senator McClellan also said the subcommittee believed it essential to hear from both Richard Helms, now Ambassador to Iran but director of the agency at the time of the

burglary, and from General Cushman.

General Cushman is scheduled to testify Friday before a Senate Armed Services subcommittee in the Pentagon papers case.

Two Officials Identified

Meanwhile, two high State Department officials were identified today as the men who had authorized Hunt to read and copy 240 highly classified documents concerning the Vietnam war in September, 1971.

A State Department spokesman said that William Macomber, then Deputy Under Secretary of State for Management, and U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs, had specifically authorized Hunt to review the diplomatic cables. Mr. Macomber is now Ambassador to Turkey.

Charles W. Bray, the spokesman for the State Department, said that the authorization had been given at the request of Egil Krogh Jr. and David R. Young Jr., at that time White House aides.