

The Day's Developments

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S.E.C. and Vesco Case: G. Bradford Cook resigned as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, a post he had held for only 74 days. Last week, a Federal grand jury in New York that indicted, among others, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans, former Secretary of Commerce, said in its indictment that Mr. Stans had persuaded Mr. Cook, then general counsel of the S.E.C., to delete from an S.E.C. civil action against Robert L. Vesco, a New Jersey Financier, information relating to a secret \$200,000 contribution by Mr. Vesco to the Nixon campaign.

Security wiretaps: According to Justice Department sources, Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser for national security affairs, provided the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the names of a number of his aides on the National Security Council whose telephones he wanted tapped. The White House confirmed that President Nixon had authorized taps on 13 officials of the Security Council and four newsmen.

Watergate: The former Director of Central Intelligence, Richard M. Helms, was reported to have told a Senate subcommittee that he considered White House requests for C.I.A. assistance in the Watergate matter improper, but that he had not mentioned his concern to the President. Mr. Helms is now Ambassador to Iran.

Republican reaction: Republican party leaders from the Southern states, meeting privately in Washington, criticized the President's handling of the Watergate affair as damaging to both the party and the country.

Senate investigation: At 10 A.M. today, in the caucus room of the Old Senate Office Building, a select committee headed by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, begins its Watergate hearings. Mr. Ervin said that he expected "some startling revelations."

World reaction: New York Times bureaus in 27 foreign countries reported that criticism abroad of the Nixon Administration over the Watergate affair had been slight, and that American foreign policy did not appear to have suffered significant damage. Some doubts were voiced, however, over the President's ability to conduct foreign policy vigorously.

Details on Pages 1, 34, 35 and 36.