

# CIA, Nixon Differed On Radicals

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The Central Intelligence Agency reported in 1969 and 1970 that it could find no substantial evidence to support the Nixon administration's view that foreign governments were supplying undercover agents and funds to radicals and Black Panther groups in the U.S., according to White House and intelligence sources.

The CIA's findings were rejected, the sources said yesterday, by high-level White House aides who arranged in late 1970 for 35 FBI agents to open overseas intelligence posts in 20 countries.

The bureau's expansion is said to have angered Richard Helms, then the CIA director, and other agency officials.

"We tried to show that the radical movements were homegrown, indigenous responses to perceived grievances and problems that had been growing for years," one official who worked on the agency's analysis recalled. "We said the radicals were clean and that we couldn't find anything. But all it turned out to be was another nail in Helms' coffin."

Helms was relieved as the agency's director late last year.

The CIA said it would not

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had been available. But he added, "it was never our position that we had hard information" about the foreign link to domestic disturbances.

The intelligence sources said that the first CIA study was submitted to the office of Henry A. Kissinger, the president's national security adviser, more than six months before President Nixon decided to establish a special inter-agency committee to prepare recommendations for expanded domestic intelligence operations.

The New York Times reported yesterday that the committee's report, approved by Mr. Nixon and his top intelligence advisers in July, 1970, called for the FBI to set up a massive counter-insurgency program, involving spying, wiretapping and burglaries, against the Black Panthers, potential Arab saboteurs, radical students, and Soviet espionage agents.

## PROGRAM

The program was not put into effect because J. Edgar Hoover, then director of the FBI, refused to act without written authorization from Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Nixon, in discussing the proposal during his Watergate statement Tuesday, cited what he said was a wave of domestic bombings, campus disturbances and gun battles in early 1970 and added: "Some of the disruptive activities were receiving foreign support." He cited no evidence.

Elsewhere in his statement, Mr. Nixon characterized the 1970 report as one of "three important national security operations" that had become involved in the Watergate scandal. The two other programs, he said, were the series of telephone wiretaps on newsmen and White House aides instituted in 1969 and the establishment of a special investigation unit in 1971 in connection with the Pentagon Papers leak.

One intelligence official said that the White House had a "preoccupation" with the extent of foreign influence on domestic radicals and blacks. "Whenever kids went abroad," the source said, "there were those in the White House who were

convinced that they were meeting with Communists and coming back with dope."

## AREAS

The CIA studied three distinct areas in both 1969 and 1970, the source said. It analyzed student patterns throughout Europe, North Africa and Latin America to determine whether there was any connection between activities there and the U.S.' disturbances. No significant connection was found, he said.

Another main area of study was in the Mideast, where nations — especially Egypt — were analyzed to determine whether the Arab student population in the United States was being drawn into radical activities under the leadership of the Arab bloc.

"For years there had been indications," the source said, "that there were Arab students in the United States who were probably financed by (Mideast) embassy money who were trying to draw support against Israel. To our knowledge there were no serious efforts beyond that. By that I mean there were no illegal activities by those students — no recruiting American spies and no bomb-throwing."

## SUPPORT

The third main study area concerned possible Algerian support for the Black Panthers, the source said. "That question was tracked back and forth 16 times over and over again," he noted. "Every intelligence agency said we know it's an interesting hypothesis but, by and large, the judgment of the intelligence community in 1970 was that there was no significant Algerian support for the domestic operations of blacks.

"History supports that judgment completely," the official declared. He noted that the Algerian government apparently ousted the Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver and his followers late last year.