

U.S. Official Says CIA Probed Ex-Nixon Aide

Washington

The CIA investigated a top aide to Richard Nixon during the 1968 campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, a government official acknowledged yesterday.

In June, 1968, a CIA agent named Franklin R. Geraty attempted to gather information on Richard V. Allen by posing as an investigator for a non-existent private detective agency, the official said. At the time, Allen was

serving as Mr. Nixon's national security adviser.

However, the official, who declined use of his name, insisted that the agency's investigation had nothing to do with Allen's job for Mr. Nixon.

According to the official, a security check was ordered in March, 1968, before Allen joined the Nixon campaign, after then-CIA director Richard M. Helms had decided to make some classified documents available to

Allen in connection with his work at Stanford's Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, where he edited a yearbook on international Communist affairs.

The official also acknowledged that CIA files contained no record that Allen ever requested access to classified materials.

Allen requested some unclassified documents, the official said, and Helms decided to turn over some

classified material as well.

The investigation of Allen was first reported by William Safire, a former Nixon speechwriter who is now a columnist for the New York Times, in a recently published history of the Nixon White House.

According to Safire, "Allen has been the target of a clumsy CIA probe" in which "a San Francisco banker was visited by an investigator asking about Allen who left a card that was easily traced to a CIA front."

Allen is on vacation in Florida and could not be reached for comment.

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