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Report in Senate**'Johnson and Nixon  
Pushed CIA Spying'**

Washington

Presidents Johnson and Nixon pressured the Central Intelligence Agency into a domestic spy operation that director Richard Helms knew violated the agency's charter, according to a Senate intelligence committee staff report.

Operation Chaos, designed to uncover the foreign influence behind domestic unrest, lasted from 1967 to 1974 despite repeated findings that student and racial demonstrations at home were not directed or financed from abroad, the report added.

The staff report called Chaos' gathering of information on domestic political activity "a step toward the dangers of a domestic secret police."

At its peak, Operation Chaos carried the names of 300,000 Americans in a computerized index code-named Hydra and maintained separate files on an estimated 7500 citizens, according to the report released yesterday.

Information in the files included intelligence on domestic political activity gathered from electronic eavesdropping, mail opening, undercover agents and FBI reports, the staff study said.

"Operation Chaos was not an

intelligence mission sought by the CIA," the report stressed. Presidents Johnson and Nixon pressed then-director Helms to determine the extent of hostile foreign influence on domestic unrest, and the agency's repeated negative findings only led to pressure for a more thorough investigation, according to the report.

In February, 1969, Helms sent a warning "to Henry Kissinger for President Nixon," writing that "this is an area not within the charter of this agency, so I need not emphasize how extremely sensitive this makes the (report on student unrest). Should anyone learn of its existence, it would prove most embarrassing for all concerned."

The CIA charter bars it from internal security functions.

The report, which revealed few new details about Chaos, also provided descriptions of three related projects — Merrimack, Resistance and Project 2.

Under Merrimack, the CIA used construction workers and tradesmen in Washington as part-time agents to collect "any information about the plans and attitudes" of such groups as the Women's Strike for Peace, the Washington Peace Center, the Congress of Racial Equality and the Student

Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

Resistance "compiled information about radical groups around the country, particularly on campuses," according to the report.

Project 2 began in 1970 as a separate operation in which agents entered American universities in preparation for undercover assignments abroad.

"While preparing for their future assignments ... they provided considerable information on their associates, dissident organizations, demonstration plans and sometimes personal information," the report said.

Information gathered from all three projects went into Chaos files.

Chaos had its own agents as well who "participated in radical activity here as part of their preparation for assignment overseas," according to the report. "In the process, they supplied detailed information on domestic activities of Americans."

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Also filed CIA (d).