

SF Examiner

NOV 26 1971

Military Influence Of CIA Feared

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Some key senators fear that the military has gained excessive influence in the U.S. intelligence network even though a civilian has been named its top director.

They are concerned about the possibility that Richard Helms, popular director of the Central Intelligence Agency, may have given up considerable influence to his military assistants when he was named overall czar of the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies.

With his added duties, they fear, Helms will have to turn over many of his CIA responsibilities to Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., a Marine.

Kissinger

Moreover, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the deputy secretary of defense have been given a new voice in the intelligence command through membership on a committee under the direction of Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, to oversee U.S. intelligence activity.

Sens. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) and J. William Fulbright, (D-Ark.) fear this reorganization means the Pentagon is taking an increasingly larger role in intelligence activity, but Helms this week told a closed session of the Senate Armed Services Committee that this was no so.

Nevertheless, the committee is conducting an investigation to find out just what the situation is.

Secrecy

No one in the Senate actually knows if there has been any lessening of Helms' influence within the CIA because no senator, not even the Armed Services chairman, has access to CIA secrets.

Only five members of the Senate and five from the House even are given information on the intelligence budget and detailed briefings on the operations of the various other intelligence services.