Ex-C.I.A. Chief Calls Reagan Order Harmful

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (AP) — President Reagan's recent order giving the Central Intelligence Agency freer rein to carry on domestic operations will harm rather than help the agency, the man who headed the agency under President Carter testified today.

"I admire the intent of the new executive order," Stansfield Turner, the former Director of Central Intelligence, told a House subcommittee. But he said he believed the order "is seriously flawed" and would eventually weaken the agency's capabilities, "much to our country's detriment."

Mr. Turner told the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights that while the order was intended to improve the agency's collection of intelligence, it risked infringing on the legal rights of Americans.

The new order, which replaces President Carter's 1978 directive, permits the agency to collect "significant" foreign intelligence inside the United States. It also allows the agency, for the first time, to conduct covert actions in this country, as long as those operations do not affect Government policies, politics or the news media.

Mr. Turner said that intrusion by the agency into domestic intelligence matters normally handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation "will strain the relationship between the C.I.A. and the F.B.I.," which "has not always been a good one" but is "very good today."

He said C.I.A. officers had been trained to operate overseas with the aim of accomplishing their mission rather, than having to worry about whether constitutional rights must be respected.

Turning these officers into domestic operatives could result in the return of such "harebrained schemes" as drug experiments on unwitting Americans

that caused the C.I.A. to be severely criticized by Goternment investigators in the 1970's, he said.

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These revelations of past misconduct "were extremely damaging" to the C.I.A. and no repetition must be permitted, he added.

Says Curbs Were No Hindrance

Mr. Turner said that while he headed the agency from 1977 to 1981, "we did not forgo significant opportunities to gain intelligence because of the restrictions on not intruding into the lives of Americans."

In a joint statement presented to the subcommittee, representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union sald that the Reagan order "represents a grave threat to civil liberties" by going well beyond the previous orders issued

by Presidents Carter and Ford, which the group also found distasteful.

"In enacting the National Security Act of 1947, it is clear that Congress, in setting up the C.I.A., intended to prohibit it from spying on Americans at home," the statement said. "The executive orders have been drafted in total disregard of that prohibition."