

RICHARD HELMS

The Director of Central Intelligence

Richard McGarrah Helms became the Director of Central Intelligence on 30 June 1966. He had been the Deputy Director since 28 April 1965. He was originally appointed by President Johnson on 18 June 1966, then on 16 December 1968 President-elect Nixon announced that he would be retained.

On 7 March 1969 President Nixon visited the Central Intelligence Agency to address its employees. He stated on that occasion:

"It has been truly said that the CIA is a professional organization. That is one of the reasons that when the new administration came in and many changes were made, as they should be made in our American political system after an election, and a change of parties, as far as the executive branch is concerned, I did not make a change.

"I surveyed the field. I checked the qualifications of all of the men, or, for that matter, any women who might possibly be the Director of the CIA. That could happen.

"But I concluded that Dick Helms was the best man in the country to be the Director of the CIA and that is why we have him here."

Mr. Helms took the oath of office in 1966 in the East Room, The White House, following his unanimous confirmation by the Senate. Lyndon B. Johnson, then President of the United States, said on that occasion:

"It is a very special pleasure to me, to one who has spent thirty-five years in the Federal Government (not always under the protective arm of the Secret Service or the Civil Service) to see one of the high positions in this Government filled by a man who has devoted his entire career to the public service of his country. Dick Helms, the man we are naming to this post, is such a man.

"Although he has spent more than twenty years in public life attempting to avoid publicity, he has never been able to conceal the fact that he is one of the most trusted and most able and most dedicated professional career men in this Capitol. No man has ever come to this high critical office with better qualifications."

Mr. Helms was born in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, 30 March 1913. He attended Carteret Academy in Orange, New Jersey; Le Rosey School in Rolle/Gstaad, Switzerland; and the Realgymnasium of Freiburg i/Breisgau, Germany. He was graduated in 1935 from Williams College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. While in college he was editor-in-chief of the yearbook, GULIELMENSIAN, and also editor-in-chief of the college newspaper, THE WILLIAMS RECORD. He was a correspondent in Europe for the United Press. Mr. Helms interviewed Hitler, and his story "Hitler and Mars Incorporated" was published in the INDIANAPOLIS TIMES. In 1937 he joined the Indianapolis Times Publishing Company and later became its national advertising manager. Mr. Helms was a member of the Literary Club in Indianapolis.

During the winter of 1942, he was active in the public relations efforts of the Navy Relief Society fund-raising drive in New York City.

Mr. Helms was commissioned Lieutenant (jg), United States Naval Reserve on 1 July 1942. After attending Naval Training School, Harvard University, he was assigned as Operations Officer, Headquarters, Eastern Sea Frontier. In August 1943 he was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services and served in Washington, England, France, and Germany.

Upon discharge from the United States Naval Reserve in 1946, Mr. Helms was a civilian employee in the Strategic Services Unit, War Department, which was the successor organization to a major part of the Office of Strategic Services. He was employed there until the establishment of the Central Intelligence Group, to which he was transferred. He was then assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency when it was established on 18 September 1947. In August of 1952 he was appointed by General Walter Bedell Smith, then Director of Central Intelligence, as Deputy to the Deputy Director for Plans. On 17 February 1962, he was

appointed Deputy Director for Plans by John A. McCone.

In 1965 he received the career service award of the National Civil Service League.

