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Watergate Jury Hears

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Former CIA director Richard M. Helms has testified for a second time before the Watergate grand jury about possible CIA involvement in the break-in at Democratic National Headquarters and the subsequent coverup.

Helms, now ambassador to Iran, was recalled from his diplomatic post for testimony and appeared for about an hour yesterday before the grand jury, according to sources close to the investigation.

Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski's office refused any comment on the Helms interrogation. But it understood staff investigators, following the lead of Archibald Cox, wanted to examine further a memorandum written by Helms 11 days after the June 17, 1972, Watergate break-in in which he asked that FBI agents "confine themselves to the personalities already arrested or directly under investigation."

THE JUNE 28, 1972, memo surfaced earlier this month and stirred reports of renewed interest at the prosecutor's office in Helms' original testimony.

In some eyes, the memo ran directly counter to sworn testimony by Helms and other CIA officials that the agency had no connection whatsoever with E. Howard Hunt and the other onetime intelligence opera-

tives who carried out the June 17 break-in.

This apparent discrepancy was further underlined earlier this month by an article in Harper's Magazine. It contended that Eugenio Martinez, one of the five conspirators apprehended inside the Democratic headquarters and admittedly a paid CIA informant at the time of the break-in, had kept CIA higher-ups fully informed of the doings of Hunt and his colleagues.

THE THESIS has been sharply disputed by all congressional investigators who have looked into the matter. The Senate Armed Services Committee held two hearings earlier in the month in an unsuccessful effort to press the author to authenticate his claims.

Rep. Lucien Nedzi, D-Mich., whose CIA oversight subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, has probably carried out the most painstaking study of the relationship of CIA to Watergate, has firmly concluded that the agency was not involved and that the potentially damaging memo is really innocent.

William E. Colby, the present CIA director, earlier this month prepared at the invitation of Senate Armed Services Committee acting chairman Stuart Symington, D-Mo., a second memo to explain what Helms had in mind.

In it, Colby explained that the original Helms memo,

Helms Again



RICHARD HELMS

addressed to deputy CIA director Gen. Vernon A. Walters, was aimed at protecting two undercover agents in Mexico from exposure by an FBI investigation of what later turned out to be a Republican Finance Committee money chain through a Mexico City bank.

"HE WANTED to discourage a fishing expedition into CIA operations," Colby said.

Nedzi has fully accepted this interpretation, both in a special subcommittee report on the CIA-Watergate connection prepared last month and in private conversation thereafter. He repeated his conviction in an interview yesterday.

State Department offi-

cial confirmed yesterday that Helms returned from Tehran over the weekend. Informed sources reported that he conferred with Colby Monday, and he was reported to have met with Nedzi yesterday afternoon.

When questioned, Nedzi reiterated that the controversial memo could hurt Helms only through misinterpretation. "Our record is complete," he said, adding that he and his subcommittee had gone through "piles of memoranda" from classified CIA files relating to the Watergate crew, including Martinez, without finding a shred of evidence of any involvement.