HUGE C.I.A. OPERATION REPORTED
IN U.S. AGAINST ANTIWAR FORCES,
OTHER DISSIDENTS IN NIXON YEARS

FILES ON CITIZENS

Helms Reportedly Got
Surveillance Data in
Charter Violation

By SEYMOUR M. HERSHEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—The Central Intelligence Agency, direc-
tly violating its charter, con-
ducted a massive, illegal do-

testic intelligence operation
during the Nixon Administra-
tion against the antiwar move-

cnt and other dissident
groups in the United States,
according to well-placed Gov-

erment sources.

An extensive investigation by The New York Times has estab-
lished that intelligence files on
at least 10,000 American citi-
zens were maintained by a
special unit of the C.I.A. that
was reporting directly to Rich-
ard Helms, then the Director
of Central Intelligence and now
the Ambassador to Iran.

In addition, the sources said,
a check of the C.I.A.'s domestic
files ordered last year by Mr.
Helms's successor, James R.
Schlesinger, produced evidence
dozens of other illegal activi-
ties by members of the C.I.A.
inside the United States, be-
ginning in the nineteen-fifties,
including break-ins, wiretap-
ing and the surreptitious in-
spection of mail.

A Different Category
Mr. Schlesinger was suc-
cceeded at the C.I.A. by William
Those other alleged operations,
in the fifties, while also pro-
hibited by law, were not tar-
geted at dissident American
citizens, the sources said, but
were a different category of
domestic activities that were
secretly carried out as part of
operations aimed at suspected
foreign intelligence agents op-
erating in the United States.

Under the 1947 act setting
up the C.I.A., the agency was
forbidden to have "police, sub-
poena, law enforcement powers
or internal security functions" inside the United States. Those
responsibilities fall to the F.B.I.,
which maintains a special in-
ternal security unit to deal
with foreign intelligence threats.

Helms Unavailable
Mr. Helms, who became head
of the C.I.A. in 1966 and left the
agency in February, 1973, for
his new post in Teheran, could
not be reached despite tele-
phone calls there yesterday
and today.

Charles Cline, a duty officer
at the American Embassy in
Teheran, said today that a note
informing Mr. Helms of the re-
qust by The Times for com-
ment had been delivered to Mr.
Helms's quarters this morning.
By late evening Mr. Helms had
not returned the call.

The information about the
Continued on Page 26, Column 1