

Page Denied

WASH. POST 5 AUG 86 p. 1A

Helms, Aide Probed on Security Leak

Intelligence Panel Sought FBI Inquiry; Senator Denies Charge

By Joanne Omang
Washington Post Staff Writer

The FBI, at the request of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, is investigating "a potential violation" of national security secrets by either an aide to Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) or the senator himself regarding U.S. intelligence-gathering capability in Chile, committee officials said yesterday.

A State Department spokesman quoted Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, as saying there was "no indication Helms was personally responsible for any breach of security, or even that he was aware of it, but that's why you investigate."

Two sources close to the probe

said it has focused principally on Christopher Manion, Helms' aide on the Foreign Relations Committee. The sources added that Helms had not been ruled out as a suspect.

Helms heatedly denied the charge, telling reporters it was "a smear campaign" by the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency. He accused Abrams of "a deliberate falsehood" in sparking the probe. Manion, the brother of Daniel A. Manion, recently confirmed as a federal appeals court judge, could not be reached for comment last night.

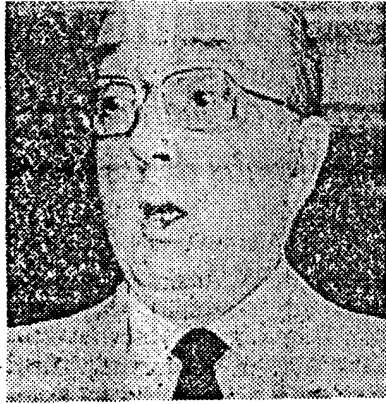
In a formal statement, Sens. David R. Durenberger (R-Minn.) and Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.), respectively chairman and vice chairman of the intelligence committee, said

the committee had "received information that there had been a potential violation" of the law that bars disclosure of classified information held by a senator or Senate employe or officer.

Abrams' spokesman said Abrams had "mentioned" the alleged security violation to Durenberger during "a chance encounter at a social event."

Without mentioning Helms or Chile, the statement said the committee had asked the Justice Department to investigate and that the results would be turned over to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. The Justice Department refused to comment.

See CHILE, A16, Col. 3



SEN. JESSE HELMS
... accuses Abrams of "falsehood"



CHRISTOPHER MANION
... said to be focus of FBI inquiry

Helms, Aide Probed on Leak

CHILE, From A1

An intelligence committee spokesman said the statement had been issued in response to a report in Sunday's New York Times about a probe involving Helms and Chile.

Sources close to the investigation said the alleged security leak involved a U.S. ability to monitor internal communications of the Chilean armed forces, through which officials had reportedly learned unreported details of the July 6 burning death of a Washington resident, Rodrigo Rojas, 19, in an antigovernment demonstration. Government troops have been accused of Rojas' murder.

The technology had also allowed unspecified contact with the growing opposition to President Augusto Pinochet within the Chilean armed forces, the sources said. The FBI began its inquiry July 18, the sources added.

Helms visited Chile and met with Pinochet the week after Rojas' death, taking along his wife and personal aides Deborah DeMoss, James Lucier and Clifford A. Kiracofe Jr. Manion, who was not on the trip, has traveled to Chile many times in the past. One staff member said the five-day visit was financed by the Chilean National Agriculture Society and not by U.S. taxpayers.

"None of us [on the trip], including the senator, had access to any classified information on Chile. There was no hearing, no briefing, no documents, no nothing. We had nothing to leak, period," the staff member said.

Helms made a surprise visit to the Senate press gallery yesterday to deny he had leaked anything to the Chileans. "It was Elliott Abrams" who started the probe, Helms said. "He crept up here in

the dead of night and made those charges I am saying Elliott Abrams committed a deliberate falsehood, knowing it to be a lie."

Abrams' spokesman said Abrams had neither lied nor leaked anything to the news media.

Helms said the State Department and the CIA "want to silence me, they want to intimidate me, they want to harass me, and it's not going to work." He has long claimed that independent fact-finding missions by him and his staff have produced better information than diplomats or agents normally obtain, and that they feel threatened by his criticisms of their performance.

"Is it a smear campaign? Of course it is. If they can't beat you into the ground, they smear you into the ground," Helms said. "I don't know anything about any covert mission and Elliott Abrams knows that."

Intelligence sources said CIA Director William J. Casey had been angered by the reported security breach but did not want to clash directly with Helms by ordering his own investigation.

They said Secretary of State George P. Shultz had been "furious" when Helms praised Pinochet's government during his visit there and criticized U.S. Ambassador Harry G. Barnes Jr. for attending Rojas' funeral.

Abrams told a House subcommittee hearing that Helms' remarks were "indefensible" and said later that Helms was "completely isolated" in his defense of Pinochet. He had previously criticized Helms' charges that the governments of Mexico and Panama are involved in corruption and drug traffic.

Staff writers Mary Thornton and Patrick E. Tyler contributed to this report.

Helms Declares Officials Harass Him

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, August 4 — Senator Jesse Helms accused the State Department today of disclosing information to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence linking Mr. Helms to a disclosure of sensitive intelligence matters to the Government of Chile.

"They want to intimidate me and harass me, and it's not going to work," the North Carolina Republican told reporters.

The New York Times reported Sunday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was investigating assertions that Mr. Helms or a member of his staff had disclosed classified American intelligence to Chilean officials. According to the report in The Times, the State Department had transmitted the original allegations to the Senate committee, which in turn informed the F.B.I.

At his news conference Senator Helms said the charges were "trumped up." Speaking of the State Department he said, "They know, and I certainly know, that I have violated no rules of classification."

The Justice Department had no comment tonight on television news reports that the investigation had centered on a member of the Senate Foreign Rela-

tions Committee staff who had been chosen by Senator Helms, Christopher Manion. Mr. Manion is the brother of Daniel A. Manion, an Indiana lawyer who was recently confirmed as a Federal appeals court judge after a bitter debate over his legal competence and political views. Christopher Manion could not be reached for comment.

Request for Inquiry Confirmed

The two leaders of the intelligence panel, Dave Durenberger, a Minnesota Republican, and Patrick J. Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, confirmed today that they had "asked the Attorney General to investigate" reports that classified information had been disclosed. They transmitted their request in a letter July 18, according to a spokesman for the committee.

Senator Helms said the information about him had been given to the Senate committee "in the dead of night" by Elliot Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. He accused Mr. Abrams of spreading a "deliberate falsehood" and added, "They are trying to silence me."

Charles Redman, a State Department spokesman, said today that the department "has not asked for any investigation" of the charges against Senator Helms, but he would make no further comment on the matter.

Mr. Abrams did not return telephone calls today seeking his comment.

The controversy over the classified information is only the latest incident in a long-running dispute between Senator Helms, the senior Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, and the State Department. By his own count, Senator Helms has tried to block 19 of President Reagan's diplomatic appointments that he considered out of step with the Administration's conservative, anti-Communist foreign policy.

One curious aspect of Mr. Helms's attack on Mr. Abrams is that Mr. Abrams is considered a conservative in foreign policy matters. Mr. Abrams has appeared frequently on Capitol Hill to defend Mr. Reagan's requests for military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels and other Administration proposals.

At his news conference today, Mr. Helms criticized "the major media" for focusing on negative reports about him. "The thing that amazes me the most," he said, "is the way the major media in this country never hesitates to pick up on a matter of this sort."

He also argued that the Senate intelligence committee "ought to change its rules." He said that under current rules the committee automatically had to transmit the information it received from the State Department to the Justice Department for investigation.

If the rules were altered to give the committee more discretion, Mr. Helms said, "at least a senator will have the opportunity to face his accuser and to discuss the charges before the State Department files charges, walks off and calls up The New York Times."

A change in the rules, he added, would provide protection for Senators in the future "who might be intimidated and harassed by some bureaucratic downtown."

A spokesman for the intelligence panel agreed that under the rules the committee had little choice but to get in



Senator Jesse Helms yesterday at the Capitol.

touch with the F.B.I. once it received charges of a security breach.

Denial by Chilean

SANTIAGO, Chile, Aug. 4 (AP) — Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today denied reports that Senator Helms gave secret intelligence information to the Chilean military Government during a three-day visit last month.

"I think that accusation is totally unfounded," Mr. del Valle told reporters. Mr. Helms held what he described as a cordial meeting with President Augusto Pinochet on July 12.

Mr. del Valle called Mr. Helms a patriotic man who would not give away secret intelligence to a foreign state. Mr. Pinochet took power in a coup that ousted Salvador Allende Gossens, a Marxist, in 1973. Opposition forces in Chile are demanding a return to democracy.

Helms charges State's Abrams pushed leak story

By Bill Geitz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. Jesse Helms yesterday accused an assistant secretary of state of circulating reports that the North Carolina Republican or one of his aides leaked classified information to Chile.

"It was Elliott Abrams," Mr.

Helms charged in a hastily called press conference. "He crept up here in the dead of night and made these charges. . . . I am saying Elliott Abrams committed a deliberate falsehood, knowing it to be false. "Then he slips back to his little hole at the State Department and calls The New York Times and says, 'Hey, I got a big scoop for you!'"

"This will die a silent death," Mr. Helms said. "The only result will be The New York Times and the State Department once again have managed to smear Jesse Helms. That's fine, I can take it." News of the Chilean leaks first appeared in Sunday editions of The Times.

"First, the suggestion that I leaked the story to The New York Times is false and they can obviously confirm that," Mr. Abrams, assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs, told United Press International yesterday. "Secondly, I made no false statement." The FBI yesterday confirmed that

see HELMS, page 10A

WASH TIMES
5/10/81
b-1

HELMS

From page 1A

a "leak investigation," normally conducted by the FBI counterintelligence agents under the espionage statute that makes it a crime to disclose classified information, is under way.

"We are investigating, but as sensitive as this thing is, we are not saying anymore," said Steve Ramey, an FBI spokesman.

Justice Department sources, however, said the investigation had turned up no evidence that the conservative North Carolina Republican was involved in, or knew anything about, the disclosure.

The FBI investigation is focused on the Helms' staff, the sources said.

One Helms' aide, Christopher Manion, is under suspicion of passing the U.S. intelligence on Chilean human rights violations to the Chilean government, according to UPI.

Mr. Manion is the brother of Daniel Manion, who was recently confirmed as a federal judge during a bitter partisan battle in the Senate.

Christopher Manion, who serves as the representative of Mr. Helms on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, attended a confidential briefing at which sensitive information was disclosed that later made its way to the Chilean government, sources said.

Attempts to reach Christopher Manion last night were unsuccessful.

Mr. Helms, who has charged that the State Department bureaucracy is undermining President Reagan's foreign policy initiatives, visited the Chilean leader, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, last month.

While in Santiago, Mr. Helms publicly criticized Harry Barnes, the U.S. ambassador to Chile, for attending the funeral of a Chilean exile, who while on a visit to his homeland, was burned to death during anti-government protests.

Mr. Helms said the funeral was a pro-communist demonstration that was not attended by any Latin American ambassadors and included only



Sen. Jesse Helms

the French and American ambassadors among the official representatives from the West.

A Helms' staff aide yesterday said three aides who accompanied the senator on the three-day Chilean visit early last month had not received classified intelligence briefings before the trip, nor were they given any information on Chile by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dave Durenberger, Minnesota Republican, and Vice Chairman Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont Democrat, released a statement yesterday saying the committee had "received information" that a leak of classified information might have occurred and asked the Justice Department to investigate.

Mr. Helms criticized Mr. Durenberger's handling of the investigation, saying the committee referred the matter to the Justice Department without conducting a preliminary investigation to determine if the allegations were serious.

Mr. Helms also denounced the State Department for attempting to "silence" his criticism of its policies and political appointees with the leak charges, but said the tactic would have the opposite affect.

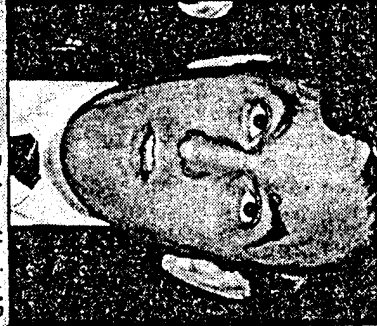
4A • TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1986 • USA TODAY

WASHINGTON AND THE WORLD

Helms aide key in FBI leak probe



By Ron Edmunds, AP
HELMES: Says Abrams offered newspaper 'scoop'



By Lane Harris, AP
ABRAMS: Assistant Secretary for Latin America

Special for USA TODAY

As part of its probe of Sen. Jesse Helms, the FBI is looking into whether Daniel Manton's brother Christopher handed U.S. secrets to Chile, said reports Monday night.

Daniel is the controversial conservative, recently confirmed as a federal judge. His brother Christopher is Helms' Senate Foreign Relations Committee representative — and was at a confidential briefing about a covert U.S. operation in Chile, reported United Press International.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has asked the FBI to learn how that briefing data later made its way to Chile's government — and Christopher Manton is under investigation, reported both NBC and CBS News.

"And here I thought the name Manton was going to be out of the newspapers for a while," said Daniel. Neither Helms, R-N.C., nor Christopher could be reached for comment Monday night. But earlier, an angry Helms told a hastily called news conference the probe

"is poppycock... This is an attempt to harass me" — in part for delaying confirmation of diplomatic norms. "And it ain't gonna work."

Helms blamed the State Department's Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary for Latin America, saying he "made these false charges, knowing they are false."

Abrams denied leaking the story. "Secondly," he said, "I made no false statement." In Chile, Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle called Helms a "patriotic" man who wouldn't pass on state secrets.

Page Denied