Judge drops charges that Sturgis threatened an ex-CIA informant

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NEW YORK — A judge yesterday dismissed all charges against Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis in connection with alleged threats against Marita Lorenz, a former CIA informant.

Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Edwin Torres acted on a motion by Assistant District Attorney Alan Broomer, who said his office had reviewed seven tapes of telephone conversations between Sturgis and Miss Lorenz and had found no evidence that he threatened her.

"A lack of any substantiation of her charges impairs her credibility," Broomer said.

Sturgis had been charged with attempted coercion and aggravated harassment for allegedly trying to force Miss Lorenz to change her testimony to federal officials, in which she allegedly has linked Sturgis to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Broomer said the tapes contained "two amiable conversations," but "no threats." He said the taped material and documents were being made available to the U. S. attorney's office, the FBI and the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Earlier yesterday, New York City Police Commissioner Michael Codd began an inquiry to see whether Sturgis' civil rights had been violated when he was arrested.

Police said there was some doubt that there were sufficient grounds to arrest Sturgis, since the arresting officers had not overheard the alleged threats. Miss Lorenz had said Sturgis made the threats by telephone.

Sturgis, 53, was arrested Monday night when he went to Miss Lorenz' Manhattan apartment.

Two detectives met him at the apartment and arrested him.

Sturgis was first held on $25,000 bail, but it was reduced Wednesday to $10,000. He posted the lower amount and was released.

Miss Lorenz has given federal officials and a congressional committee information that allegedly links Sturgis to Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of Kennedy.

At a press conference Thursday, Sturgis denied that he threatened Miss Lorenz, saying that he had come to New York City at her request to help her.

He said Miss Lorenz made the charges againt him because of pressure from unspecified "agents."

Sturgis said he recruited Miss Lorenz as a CIA informant while she was Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's mistress in 1959.

Miss Lorenz he said later sent her to poison Castro.

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AN ILL-THROWN PIE is tasted in New York yesterday by Frank Sturgis, its intended target. Looking on is one of Sturgis' attorneys. The pie was thrown by Yippie Aron Kay, who was arrested.