News photo by Carmine Donofrio

Frank Sturgis (r.) is booked on coercion charges at E. 102d St. police station.

# Girl Buys Gun to Shield Mother, an Ex-CIA Spy

By PAUL MESKIL

A frightened 15-year-old girl bought a loaded pistol Monday in a desperate attempt to protect her mother, ex-spy Marita Lorenz, from Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis.

Detectives picked up the girl, with the automatic in her pocket, as she waited near her mother's Yorkville home for Sturgis to arrive. When Sturgis showed up a few hours later, he was arrested and charged with coercing Miss Lorenz to change her testimony before a congressional committee investigating the assassination of President Kennedy.

District Attorney Robert Morgenthau's office has been in contact with Manhattan U.S. Attorney Robert Fiske Jr.'s office to explore the possibility of pressing federal charges against Sturgis for allegedly harassing a federal witness, authorities said. However, the question of jurisdiction was not expected to be decided until today.

Miss Lorenz' daughter is Monica Mercedes Perez Jiminez. Both she and her mother gave The News permission to use her name. Monica's father, who has never contributed to her support, is former Venezuelan dictator Marcos Perez Jiminez, a multimillionaire now living in Spain.

Miss Lorenz met Sturgis in 1959 while she was living in Havana with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. Sturgis, then known as Frank Fiorini, was an officer in Castro's revolutionary army and a contract agent for the CIA.

He recruited Miss Lorenz to spy on Castro. Later, when both Miss Lorenz and Sturgis left Cuba, he allegedly sent her back on two CIA missions — the first to steal documents from Castro's suite in the Havana Hilton; the second to assassinate Castro.

Six weeks ago, Miss Lorenz told The News that she accompanied Sturgis, Lee Harvey Oswald and four Cubans on a car trip from Miami to Dallas a few days before President Kennedy was murdered in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. She said she returned to Miami alone the following day.

She said she and her companions

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# Girl, 15, Buys Gun to Shield Ex-Spy Mom

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were all members of a CIA-approved "assassination squad" known as Operation 40.

Investigators Gaeton Fonzi and Al Gonzalez of the House Assassinations Committee came here Saturday to question Miss Lorenz about the alleged Dallas trip. They spent about five hours with her in her apartment on E. 88th St. during the tape-recorded interview, she recounted substantially the same story she had told previously to this reporter and to a federal agent.

**"Don't Worry, I'll Protect You"**

When the investigators left, Miss Lorenz allegedly received a phone call advising her that Sturgis was coming to New York. She received similar calls Sunday. She now says that Sturgis and other callers convinced her that Sturgis would try to make her change her story and claim it was all a lie.

Aware that her mother was very upset and afraid that Sturgis meant to harm Miss Lorenz, Monica left home as usual Monday morning. But instead of going to school, she got a .22-caliber, seven-shot pistol from a source she has refused to name.

Then she phoned her mother, told her what she had done and added: "Don't worry, I'll protect you." Miss Lorenz then persuaded the distraught child to call a friend who advised her to get rid of the pistol.

The friend then contacted police. Detectives Terrance McSwiggin and Brian Smith, who know Miss Lorenz and her daughter, found Monica on guard near her apartment house. She handed them the gun and they took her in custody.