

'63 F.B.I. Memo Ties Bush to Intelligence Agency

WASHINGTON, July 10 (AP) — Vice President George Bush may have worked for the Central Intelligence Agency in 1963, more than a decade before becoming its Director, according to a magazine article that cites a recently discovered Federal Bureau of Investigation memorandum.

Mr. Bush denied the report through a spokesman.

The Nation magazine, in its current issue, quotes a memo of Nov. 29, 1963, from J. Edgar Hoover, the bureau's Director at the time, to the State Department about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In the memo, according to the magazine, Mr. Hoover stated that the bureau had briefed "Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" on the reaction of Cuban exiles in Miami to the assassination.

The magazine article, written by Jo-

seph McBride, also quoted an unidentified source "with close connections to the intelligence community" as saying Mr. Bush "started working for the agency in 1960 or 1961, using his oil business as a cover for clandestine activities."

Stephen Hart, a spokesman for the Vice President, said that he had talked to Mr. Bush about the story and that the Vice President denied any involvement with the agency before President Ford named him its Director in 1975.

"He was an oilman in the early 1960s, and in 1963 he was running for the Senate," Mr. Hart said.

Bill Devine, a spokesman for the intelligence agency, declined to comment on the possibility that Mr. Bush, or someone else with that name, worked for the agency in the 1960s.

"It's our standard policy on allegations that people have worked for the C.I.A. or that sort of thing," Mr. Devine

said. "We neither confirm nor deny."

The magazine said Mr. Hoover's memo was recently discovered among 98,755 pages of bureau documents released in 1977 and 1978 in connection lawsuits brought under the Freedom of Information Act.

At the time the memo was written, Mr. Bush was running the Houston-based Zapata Off-Shore Company, which the magazine said gave Bush an opportunity to do extensive overseas travel, including trips throughout the Caribbean. In 1964, Mr. Bush ran unsuccessfully for the Senate.

In his 1987 autobiography, "Looking Forward," Mr. Bush calls his appointment to head the agency "a real shocker" in light of his background as a "non-professional outsider — and a politician to boot." However, Mr. Bush also notes in the book that "I'd come to the C.I.A. with some general knowledge of how it operated."