

Ex-Colonel Denies Link With Hunt

A retired Army colonel has told a staff member of the Senate Intelligence Committee that he knows nothing about a CIA assassination unit which E. Howard Hunt claims the colonel headed in the mid-1950s.

Boris T. Pash gave sworn testimony last month after Hunt, a former CIA official who was later convicted in the Watergate conspiracy, said in an interview with The New York Times News Service that in 1954 or 1955 Pash was in charge of a CIA unit set up to arrange assassination of double agents and similar low-ranking officials. The interview was published by The Washington Star.

"I did serve a normal tour of duty on military assignment to the CIA . . . from early 1949 to the end of 1951," Pash said in a prepared statement. "Mr. Hunt claims to have discussed the alleged assassination matter with me sometime in 1954 or 1955, at least two years after I left the agency."

"My duties (with the CIA) pertained to intelligence activities, and I wish to state most emphatically that I was never in charge of or involved in any assassination planning nor ever requested to do so," he said.

Pash's testimony to a staff lawyer was secret and was not announced by the committee at the time. Pash sent a copy of his statement to the Star. A committee spokesman confirmed that he had appeared.

The New York Times report said Pash was "understood to have died." Pash insisted he is very much alive.