

DISBURSED

APR 1 1973

Guard Says He Took CIA Sub Memo

By William Farr
Los Angeles Times

Los Angeles

A super-secret memo to Howard Hughes describing the CIA's plan to raise a sunken Russian submarine was taken from the billionaire's Hollywood communications center by security guard Mike Davis and later destroyed by him, Davis told the Los Angeles Times yesterday.

Authorities had previously believed the document was lost when burglars who broke into the communications center on Oct. 20, 1972, stole a cache of tapes.

It is unclear whether the document was actually kept in a vault. Some of the spy agency's most expensive and secretive intelligence missions—ones that cost hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars and six years of prodigious effort.

In an interview with a Times reporter, Davis, wearing the same disfigure to the district attorney's office and police detective, Davis said:

"After the burglary had gone, and I had been able to get to a phone to call for help, I noticed two pieces of paper on the floor near the door to Kay Cienn's office. The burglars must have dropped them there.

"One of the papers was just a typewritten memo to ERH and the other looked like a check with a lot of zeros on it.

"My hands were still partially tied together with tape, so I had to sort of scotch the papers up and take them into my apartment. In all the excitement that followed with the arrival of the police and everything, I forgot that I had the documents.

"It was just an unremarkable thing. The next day I got home and was in the bathroom changing clothes. When I saw what I had I panicked.

"One document was a memo saying that the CIA wanted to build a ship or

something to bring up a Russian sub. I don't remember all the details, but I recall that I said President Nixon knew about it and that the FBI would look the other

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way on how the money was being put in.

"The other document was actually a deposit note for \$100,000 made payable to Cienn. For several months I kept both the memo and the note in a bedroom drawer.

"When all the publicity began to break on the submarine business about a month ago, I tore on the memo and flushed it down the toilet. Then I took a newspaper and put it in a friend's safe.

"I gave a top executive with the CIA a copy of the memo, saying it was from the west wing of the general campus. The memo was destroyed as part of the cleanup. I was told that the memo was destroyed in the night. I would have been a liability if it had been in my hands. I was ready to do anything to get rid of it. Its destruction date was July 21, 1972.

By his actions, Davis set into motion an investigation that was to envelop CIA Director William Colby, FBI Chief

Clarence Kelley, Los Angeles county District Attorney Joseph Busch, Police Chief Edward Davis and the news media.

Operating on the belief that the burglars had stolen the secret sub memo and that it was among the pirated documents they had attempted to ransom for \$1 million, these high officials and some of the nation's leading publications joined in an extraordinary effort to keep the lid of secrecy on the project because of national security implications.

"Had I had any idea, even the memo involved something of that magnitude, my whole attitude and action would have been different," Davis told the Times yesterday.

"I guess that I made a mistake, but as tough as it is for me, I am going to clear everything up."

Davis was dismissed by the Hughes organization shortly after the burglary because he was unable to keep an exact log.