

Memo's existence denied

AUG 22 1978

By EARL GOLZ

Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said here Monday his agency has found no memo stating that E. Howard Hunt was in Dallas when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

The memo allegedly was written in 1966 and initialed by CIA Director Richard Helms and CIA counterintelligence chief James J. Angleton, according to a story in the Wilmington, Del., Sunday News Journal.

THE MEMO ALLEGEDLY said the presence of CIA agent Hunt in Dallas on the day of the assassination "had to be kept secret" and a cover story giving Hunt an alibi for being elsewhere "ought to be considered," the News Journal said. Hunt later was convicted for his part in the 1972 Watergate burglary.

The newspaper said Hunt was acting chief of the CIA station in Mexico City "in the weeks prior" to the assassination.

Accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald visited Mexico City in late September and October 1963 and talked to officials at the Cuban and Russian embassies in an effort to arrange passage to Cuba, the Warren Commission said.

Turner said neither Helms, Angleton

nor Hunt has been quizzed by the CIA about the alleged memo because "it's not our job to question them."

He said any probe into the existence of the memo should be done by the House Assassinations Committee.

Turner, in Dallas to speak at a luncheon sponsored by the Dallas Council on World Affairs at the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel, said he has no knowledge the committee ever asked for or obtained such a memo. He said his agents have "turned ourselves upside down" to get any information requested by the committee.

"We have a working arrangement with the committee as to what can be turned over and what cannot," Turner said. All CIA documents about the assassination — uncensored except when the identity of an agent might endanger his life — have been released to the committee, he said.

THE NEWS JOURNAL article also said: "Some CIA sources speculate that Hunt thought he was assigned by higher-ups to arrange the murder" of Oswald.

A letter purportedly written by Oswald on Nov. 8, 1963, asking a "Mr. Hunt" for "information concerning my position" was first printed by The Dal-

las Morning News in the spring of 1977.

The letter, authenticated as Oswald's handwriting by three handwriting experts commissioned by The News, concluded, "I am asking only for information. I am suggesting that we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else."

An unidentified source mailed a copy of the letter from Mexico City to independent assassination researcher Penn Jones Jr. of Midlothian. The source claimed he delivered a copy to FBI Director Clarence Kelley in late 1974.

The unsigned cover letter from the Mexico City source, written in Spanish, said the letter from Oswald to Mr. Hunt "could have brought out the circumstances to the assassination of President Kennedy." By mid-1975, Kelley had not responded to the 1974 delivery of the letter, the source said, so a copy was sent to Jones.

HUNT REPEATEDLY has denied he was in Dallas on the day of the assassination. He also has said he was not in Mexico City after 1961.

Hunt's explanation that he took off at noon on Nov. 22, 1963, and went shopping and ate a Chinese dinner in downtown Washington with his wife allegedly was described by CIA sources as "a cover story concocted as a result of the memo," the News Journal article said.

"They (CIA sources) say all of Hunt's witnesses are CIA-arranged and that his wife cannot be questioned because she was killed in a plane crash," the newspaper said.