Q. What's happened to Bernard Barker, one of the dedicated, misguided burglars of Watergate and former protégé of E. Howard Hunt?—J.F.L., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

A. Barker is recovering in Miami, Fla., from two operations, one on his nose and one on his prostate. He and Eugenio Martinez, another Watergate confederate, have just about finished providing the raw material for their memoirs, which is being ghosted by Taylor Branch and George Crile for Harper's Magazine Press. The book deals largely with the 1960 days when Barker and Martinez were contract employees for the CIA in the Bay of Pigs operation. In their book, Barker and Martinez reveal names and dates and detail the CIA-hatched plans for the assassination of Fidel Castro. They also tell much about Howard Hunt and other CIA case officers, many of whom helped botch the disastrous project that led to the resignation of Allen Dulles from the directorship of the Central Intelligence Agency.