

Sturgis Seeks Tapes In Theft Ring Case

MIAMI, Fla. Sept. 15 (AP)—Convicted Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis is seeking the release of presidential tape recordings and Central Intelligence Agency records he says can clear him of charges of complicity in a stolen car ring.

Sturgis's Miami attorney, Ellis Rubin, has petitioned the federal court here to order U.S. government tapes and records released for use in his defense in the Miami case.

The defendant was charged on Aug. 20 with one count of burglary and two counts of illegally transporting stolen Florida cars across the Mexican border. He is serving a provisional 40-year sentence for his participation in the June, 1972, burglary of Democratic national headquarters in Washington's Watergate complex.

Sturgis pleaded innocent to the Miami charges in federal court here last Friday.

"The Mexican thing was really a CIA operation, and Sturgis was acting in that capacity," Rubin said. "We want all the records to substantiate this. If they can't or won't be produced, the case should be dismissed."

The petition claims that the

Mexican operation was a CIA-sponsored move against the Fidel Castro government in Cuba.

Among the tapes sought by Rubin are recordings of alleged conversations between former White House counsel John W. Dean III, former CIA Director James R. Schlesinger and present CIA Director William F. Colby.