

A Figure in Raid on Democrats Reported a Fugitive in Europe

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By TAD SZULC

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WASHINGTON, July 2— E. that "my husband works for the White House and he is away traveling so much that I hardly ever see him." Because of the publicity surrounding Mr. Hunt in what was rapidly becoming a major political affair here, the Spanish Embassy decided to terminate

Howard Hunt Jr., the former Central Intelligence Agency official now sought by Federal agents in connection with last month's raid on the Democratic National Committee here, was reliably reported today to have fled to Europe and possibly to be in Spain.

This report came from persons close to Mr. Hunt as the Federal authorities said that a large force of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had been searching for the former White House consultant throughout the United States since early last week.

At the same time, Spanish Embassy officials here said in weekend interviews that Mr. Hunt's wife, Mrs. Dorothy Hunt, long an employe of the embassy, had told them as late as the latter part of May that her husband was still working for the White House.

This appeared to contradict a White House statement shortly after the raid on the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate office building here that Mr. Hunt, whose name had been linked with the break-in at dawn of June 17, completed his consultant status in the Presidential office on March 29.

Mrs. Hunt has been a part-time employe of the Spanish Embassy, whose officials said that she had told them in May

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her employment effective yesterday, with a month's severance pay. She had been employed four hours a day translating documents and speeches from Spanish to English.

Mr. Hunt, who played a key role in organizing the C.I.A.'s abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, was linked to the Watergate raid after the police found his name and home telephone number in the address books of two of the alleged raiders, both of them Cuban-born, when the group was arrested at the Democratic offices.

Although Mr. Hunt spoke to F.B.I. agents three days after the Watergate raid, he refused, according to Federal officials, to answer any questions. Subsequently, he informed his friends that he was leaving Washington and for the last 10 days his whereabouts have been unknown.

Today, persons close to Mr. Hunt said they understood he had flown to Europe. They said he had "touched base" in Spain, but they were unable to say whether he still might be there.

All the five persons arrested at the Watergate raid had ties with Mr. Hunt during the Bay of Pigs operation, most notably Bernard L. Barker, a Miami realtor, who was said to have acted as the C.I.A.'s finance officer in the invasion preparations.

In an interview with The New York Times last week, Mrs. Clara Barker, Mr. Barker's wife, said that her husband and Mr. Hunt were business partners in recent ventures.

The Federal authorities said last month that \$5,300 in \$100 bills found on the raiders at the time of their arrest and in their hotel rooms were part of a withdrawal of \$89,000 made by Mr. Barker from a

Miami bank in May. This amount was said to have been deposited the previous month in his account in the form of four checks drawn on a Mexican bank.

Mrs. Barker said that her husband and Mr. Hunt had been engaged together in business in Central America.

Pistol in White House

Federal agents reported last week that a walkie-talkie and an unloaded pistol were recently found in the drawer of the desk in the suite of offices Mr. Hunt occupied in the White House.

The White House has not said whether Mr. Hunt had access to his office there after he ceased to be a part-time White House consultant.

The White House has said that Mr. Hunt, who retired from the C.I.A. in 1970, was hired as a part-time consultant in 1971 on the recommendation of Charles W. Colson, special counsel to the President.

Mr. Colson and Mr. Hunt were reported by mutual friends to have been acquainted for some time. Both reportedly are associated with the Brown University Alumni Club here.

Spanish Embassy officials reported that Mrs. Hunt left Washington on June 1, with two of her children, on what was going to be her month-long annual vacation. They said she had told them her plans were to visit London and Paris, but not Spain "this time."

However, Mrs. Hunt returned to the Spanish Embassy and resumed work on June 20, three days after the Watergate raid. She explained that the weather had been bad in Europe and, therefore, she had decided to shorten her vacation.

Mr. Hunt vanished from sight the following day, but his wife continued to go to work at the embassy until last Friday. Today, however, as in

past days, there was no answer to telephone calls at the Hunts' suburban Maryland home.

One of the reasons for the F.B.I.'s renewed interest in Mr. Hunt is that the persons who raided the Watergate were equipped with two walkie-talkies, similar to the set found at his White House office. Although the devices were said by the authorities to have used a frequency assigned by the Federal Communications Commission to the Republican National Committee, it was not known on what frequency the set in Mr. Hunt's desk was operating.

One of the persons arrested at the Watergate, James W. McCord Jr., also a former C.I.A. agent, had served as the security chief for both the Republican National Committee and the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

He was dismissed immediately after the Watergate raid and John N. Mitchell, who resigned yesterday as the director of the Committee to Re-Elect the President, said at the time that he was undertaking his own investigation into the matter.

Equipment found on the arrested persons included listening and transmitting devices and cameras suitable for microfilming files.

In other developments in the Watergate case, at least one, and possibly more, persons were brought from Miami last week to testify before a special Federal grand jury here.

Testifying before the grand jury last Tuesday was Miguel R. Suarez, who is Mr. Barker's Miami attorney and his partner in some real estate ventures.

The F.B.I. was also reported to have interrogated in Miami a large number of persons, mainly Cubans, whose names have come to the surface in the current investigation.

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