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No Smuggler, Watergate Burglar Says

MIAMI (AP)—Sept. 8—Convicted Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis pleaded innocent Friday to charges of operating a car smuggling ring in Mexico five years ago.

U.S. Magistrate Michael Osman set an Oct. 15 trial date for Sturgis, already serving a provisional 40-year sentence for his part in the Watergate break-in.

Attorney Ellis Rubin, who earlier this week claimed he would prove Sturgis was engaged in anti-Castro work for the government while in Mexico, said Friday he would subpoena government records and four witnesses, including CIA director William Colby and former White House counselor John Dean.

Sturgis, 48, of Miami, is charged with three counts alleging conspiracy and car theft.

The federal indictment contends that Sturgis and five others drove rented cars from the U.S. into Mexico and illegally sold them while posing as anti-Castro agents.

A final ruling on Sturgis' Watergate sentence is due Sept. 17 before U.S. district Judge John Sirica in Washington. Sturgis is being held at the Dade County Jail but is to be transferred to Washington next week.