

Chilean Break-Ins And Watergate



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SENATE investigators suspect that the same "Mission: Impossible" team arrested at the Watergate may also have broken into the Chilean embassy several weeks earlier. And three Chilean diplomats in New York city, the investigators discovered, have been victims of similar, mysterious break-ins.

In a memo intended only for the eyes of senators investigating ITT's operations in Chile, staff director Jerry Levinson reported: "A source with excellent contacts in the Cuban community told the subcommittee staff that Frank Sturgis had told other people that he and Martinez and Golzales, the other Watergate defendants, had broken into the embassy to photograph documents."

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OF THE New York city break-ins, the memo stated: "We . . . learned from highly reliable government sources that the Watergate defendants were reported to have been 'working out of the Taft Hotel' in New York city, that the Cuban community knew they had worked together on CIA jobs over a number of years, and that Sturgis and Hal Hendrix of ITT's public relations department had known each other for years."

Levinson was cautious, however, about implicating ITT in the alleged Chilean caper. "The staff of the subcommittee," he reported, "has developed a number of leads suggesting a relationship between ITT and the team which was arrested at the Watergate." But he stressed "that the case outlined in this memorandum is cir-

cumstantial and that there is no hard evidence of ITT involvement."

However, the subcommittee staff reported: "Government and non-government sources alike have told us that the Cuban exile community has a pool of talent which was trained by the CIA and is available for 'dirty tricks.' This talent has been used at one time or another by a number of federal agencies for missions of questionable legality inside and outside of the U.S.

"Federal sources report the Cubans to be absolutely loyal, fanatically anti-communist and willing to take any risk . . .

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WASHINGTON business and political sources report that about eight months before the Watergate arrest, E. Howard Hunt let it be known around the city that he had a 'team' available for "Mission: Impossible" assignments and that the team would be willing to work for private clients.

"It is possible that E. Howard Hunt, acting as 'the contractor for the 'team,' had more than one client and that a second client was ITT which was interested in obtaining information about its negotiations over the fate of its investment in the Chilean telephone company . . .

"ITT is the only likely contractor for operations against the Chileans. It claims to have an investment worth \$153 million in the Chilean telephone company; it knew that documents were leaking from its files; it asked the Chilean government to move negotiations from Santiago to Washington."