

MARINE CORPS HEAD LINKED TO C.I.A.'S AUTHORIZATION FOR ELLSBERG BURGLARY

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CUSHMAN NAMED

Sources Say General
Acted Upon Request
By Ehrlichman
NYTimes

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH
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WASHINGTON, May 6—Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., the Marine Corps commandant who in 1971 was Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, authorized the use of Central Intelligence Agency material and research in the burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, sources close to the Watergate case said today.

The sources said that the general, who is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acted at the request of John D. Ehrlichman, President Nixon's chief assistant for domestic affairs, who resigned last week.

General Cushman, who left the C.I.A. in 1971, was questioned by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation late last week, the sources said, and reportedly accepted full responsibility for the decision to permit the C.I.A. to help E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy prepare for the break-in.

General Not Available

The New York Times reported today that Federal prosecutors in the Watergate case had summoned some officials of the C.I.A. to discuss that agency's role in the burglary. General Cushman apparently was among the first to be questioned on the agency's activity.

The general could not be reached for comment today. Marine Corps officials said that he was traveling to the Netherlands and would not return to Washington until later this week.

The prosecuting team, headed by Earl J. Silbert and Seymour

Glanzer, first learned of the burglary at the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding last month in an interview with John W. Dean 3d, who resigned last week as counsel to the President. In subsequent grand jury testimony last Wednesday, Hunt told of utilizing C.I.A. disguises, fake identification papers, and even a "safehouse" in the Washington area that were provided by the agency's clandestine services, the so-called "dirty tricks" department.

Krogh Also Named

Hunt, a 20-year C.I.A. veteran who, along with Liddy and five others, was arrested last year in connection with the Watergate bugging, also told the grand jury that he believed that cooperation with the C.I.A. had been arranged by one of his superiors, Egil Krogh Jr.

At the time, according to grand jury testimony, Mr. Krogh was directly in charge of a special White House team that had been set up in the aftermath of the June, 1971, publication of the Pentagon

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papers to determine who was involved in the disclosure of the documents.

Mr. Krogh, at the time one of Mr. Ehrlichman's key deputies for domestic affairs, reportedly recruited both Liddy and Hunt over the next few weeks, and the two men immediately began planning the operation to get the psychiatrist's records.

Mr. Krogh, who has reportedly resigned his new job as Under Secretary of Transportation, sent a classified affidavit to the Ellsberg court Friday in which he reportedly accepted full responsibility for the burglary.

Authority in Question

Two sources confirmed today, however, that Mr. Krogh did not have the authority to deal directly with the Central Intelligence Agency on such matters as arranging help for a clandestine operation inside the United States.

One source knowledgeable

about the Hunt-Liddy burglary plan gave the following version of how the agency's cooperation was enlisted:

The C.I.A. connection was initiated by Hunt, who had instant telephone communication with that agency and other intelligence offices through a phone that he and Liddy ordered installed in their quarters in the Executive Office Building, next to the White House.

After being told by a C.I.A. official that further authority was needed before the agency could provide any assistance, the source said, Hunt went to Mr. Krogh, who took the problem to his superior, Mr. Ehrlichman.

Then the source went on: "Ehrlichman makes a telephone call to Cushman, and says, 'Hey, these guys need

some chores done. Won't you take care of it?' Cushman says, 'O.K., I'll do it.'"

"There was absolutely nothing in writing," the source said. "There was only one call, just a little lean-on call by Ehrlichman. And then Hunt and Liddy began asking for safehouses and all the rest."

Cooperation Noted

At the time of Mr. Ehrlichman's alleged call, all the key intelligence agencies of the Government were said to be cooperating with the Hunt-Liddy group.

President Nixon was known to have been angered by the disclosure of the Pentagon papers, which were published in part by The New York Times in June, 1971, and by publication by The Times a few months later of details of the strategic arms agreement, then being worked out by the White House and the Soviet Union.

Henry A. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs, lent David A. Young Jr., one of his assistants on the national security staff, to the Hunt-Liddy group, which some have referred to as "plumbers" trying to stop leaks of information. Mr. Young, who has been unavailable to newsmen, left the Government three weeks ago.

Mr. Ehrlichman, in a statement provided to the F.B.I. and read at the Ellsberg trial, ac-

knowledged learning of the burglary—which failed to produce any of Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatric records—after it took place and warning Mr. Krogh and the others not to do it again.

The complete connection between Hunt's White House operations and the C.I.A. is not

fully determined. One former high-ranking White House adviser said today that Hunt had been recommended for his job with the "plumbers" by Richard Helms, the former director of Central Intelligence, who was named Ambassador to Iran early this year.

Denied Watergate Tie

Attempts to reach Mr. Helms by telephone yesterday and today were unsuccessful. An official at the United States Embassy said today that the Ambassador had retired for the night and left instructions not to be disturbed.

In his Senate confirmation hearings in February for the post in Iran, Mr. Helms declared that his agency had nothing to do with the bugging and wiretapping of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex. He said he had "no control" over agency employees who had left.

At least four members of the original Watergate break-in team have said privately that they thought they were participating in a C.I.A. operation at the time they were arrested. The seven-man team was put together by Hunt and Liddy after they were transferred from the White House to the Republican re-election committee in early 1972.

Agency officials refused to comment on the reported link between Mr. Ehrlichman and General Cushman, but one official did confirm a report today in The Washington Post that an agency psychological profile of Dr. Ellsberg had been prepared and provided over protests of some agency officials.

Objection Reported

According to Hunt's grand jury testimony, which was released Friday in Los Angeles, the psychological profile was written by Dr. Bernard Melloy, said to be in charge of the agency's psychological assessment unit. Dr. Melloy subsequently told his superiors that providing such a study for domestic purposes was an error in judgment. The Post said, but that he was ordered to complete the project nonetheless.

It could not be learned whether General Cushman, who served as Deputy Direc-

tor of Central Intelligence for two years, had ordered Dr. Melloy to cooperate with the White House.

One source with close connections to the agency described many senior agency officials as being "angry and de-

pressed" over the new disclosures. "They feel that irreparable damage has been done by this to the C.I.A.," the source said by the senior officials. "They think the whole project was an absolute violation of the C.I.A.'s charter."

The legality of the agency's cooperation with Hunt and Liddy is questionable. The National Security Act of 1947, which set up the agency, expressly bars it from having any "police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers or internal secu-

rity functions." But the law also authorizes the agency to protect "intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure"—an authority that seems relevant to what the Government viewed in June, 1971, as the illegal theft and

publication of the Pentagon papers, a secret Defense Department study on the history of the Vietnam war.



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Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr. when he was sworn in as Deputy Director of the C.I.A. in 1969 by President Nixon.