

CIA and Travel Guides

New York

Eugene Fodor, president of Fodor's Travel Guides, Inc., conceded yesterday that he had cooperated with the Central Intelligence Agency, but denied his portrayal by convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt Jr. as a former agent for the CIA in Austria.

Describing Hunt's statements about him as "largely inaccurate," Fodor also de-

nied that the CIA had helped found and finance his publishing organization.

Replying to Hunt both by a written statement to a New York Times reporter and in an interview, Fodor conceded, however, that "financial arrangements" between himself and the CIA had existed.

And while he asserted that neither he nor his company had participated in any do-

mestic activities of the CIA, he declined to comment on Hunt's assertion that the well-known series of travel books bearing Fodor's name had provided "cover" for CIA agents disguised as travel writers.

He also said that despite his association with the CIA, he personally "was never engaged in intelligence activities of any kind, and was devoting my full efforts exclusively toward the creation, production and promotion of my travel guidebooks."

In any event, he wrote, "my relationship with the agency ended many years ago. It is enough to say that it is all ancient history, far removed and completely irrelevant to the events of today."

The allegations by Hunt were made before Senate Watergate investigators in late 1973.

Fodor, who was born in Hungary in 1905 and is now an American citizen, said that shortly after he founded his publishing company in 1950, he was approached by "old Army friends who invited me to cooperate with the CIA. The nature of the relationship and the assistance I rendered remains confidential as far as I am concerned."

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