Howard Hugnes Dies at 70 On Flight to Texas Hospital

Billionaire Was Flying From Acapulco With Undisclosed Illness

By JAMES P. STERBA Special to The New York Times

HOUSTON, April 5-Howard R. Hughes died today in a private jet that was carrying him from Acapulco to Houston for medical treatment. He was 70 years old .

Officials of the Methodist Hospital issued the following statement:

"Today at 1:27 P.M. en route from Acapulco to Houston by air, Mr. Howard R. Hughes expired." The nature of his illness was not disclosed.

The hospital officials said that they could not themselves preparations they had made for confirm that the body was that his arrival. of Mr. Hughes, but a physician for the Summa Corporation, arrived at Houston's Interna-which handles the Hughes in-tional Airport about 2 P.M. On terests, said tonight: "Howard the plane besides Mr. Hughes R. Hughes is dead."

estimated to be worth \$1.5 bil- aide. lion or more. The heart of his empire was the Summa Corpo- by ambulance from the airport ration, a holding company to the hospital, which is in the based in Las Vegas, Nev.

Mr. Hughes's wishes for the disposition of his holdings were as completely shrouded in secrecy as his life had been in recent years. His movements were always the subject of rumors but the rumors were rarely confirmed.

Larry Mathis, a vice president of Methodist Hospital, said the hospital was telephoned at about 9 A.M. today by representatives of Mr. Hughes who said he would be arriving here this afternoon. Hospital officials Mr. Mathis said.

Would not disclose the cause By that he said he meant would not disclose the cause



Howard Hughes years ago

The Hughes plane, a Lear jet, were two unidentified physi-Mr. Hughes left an estate cians and an administrative

> The body was taken 28 miles Texas Medical Center.

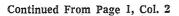
[The Associated Press said that Ed McLellan, also a hospital vice president, confirmed that the dead man was Mr. Hughes.]

The hospital referred all inquiries to a spokesman for the Hughes interest in Los Angeles.

Mr. Mathis declined to comment on the cause of death or

the disposition of the body.
"It is the body, but I can't tell you if it is Howard Hughes,"

of Mr. Hughes's death nor any Continued on Page 58, Column 6



that a body identified to the hospital as being that of Howard Hughes did arrive at the hospital this afternoon.

The body was in the pathology laboratory in the basement ogy laboratory in the basement of the hospital early tonight. Two city policemen stood in front of the door. Some hospital personnel said they heard that the body was to be removed from the hospital moved from the hospital.



Howard Hughes with Ava Gardner in 1946