

Hughes' Condition Before He Died

Acapulco

A Mexican doctor who visited Howard Hughes shortly before he died last week described the billionaire recluse as unconscious, dehydrated, afflicted with a head infection and suffering kidney failure.

The description of Hughes' condition was contained in a signed declaration taken from Dr. Victor Manuel Montemayor Martinez by the Mexican attorney general's office and made available to newsmen yesterday.

Hughes, who had been staying in a penthouse at the Acapulco Princess Hotel, was flown in his private plane to Houston April 5 for medical treatment but was dead on arrival.

Federal Judge Antonio Uribe Garcia made Montemayor's declaration available, along with statements taken from other witnesses questioned by police — who began an investigation after it was learned that Hughes had died.

Montemayor said in his statement he had not expected Hughes to live more than three or four hours without emergency hospital treatment.

The doctor's declaration included these observations:

He was called to the 20th floor penthouse of the hotel at about 5 a.m. April, 5 and found Hughes "half naked with only bedsheets covering his body," which had numerous bedsores.

Hughes had thin, long gray hair and a stringy, dark-chestnut colored beard that also was long. He weighed only about 80 pounds.

Hughes was "very pale, with his right eye open, the left not so much but about half open, breathing in pants, slowly, in a state of complete unconsciousness."

His eyes showed little reaction to light and his neck and face were twitching.

There was an open sore on the left side of his head, which Hughes' aides said was the result of a benign tumor that had been aggravated by a blow received in a fall.

A court declaration by one of Hughes' aides Monday said Hughes had suffered the fall in the Bahamas before flying to Acapulco February 10.

Montemayor said he was met at the hotel by Eric Iverson Bundy, a Hughes aide who appeared to be in charge, and there were two American doctors and a bodyguard also in the room.

Montemayor examined Hughes for two hours and suggested intravenous liquids be administered because the patient appeared to be dehydrated and suffering kidney failure.

When Montemayor said it was strange that Hughes should be kept in a hotel in such condition, Hughes' aides told him Hughes was hard to deal with and did not want to be in a hospital.

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