

Reveal Watergate suspect held passport faked by CIA

By Thomas J. Ross

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WASHINGTON — A fake passport, produced by the Central Intelligence Agency for former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr., was being carried by one of the suspects at the time of the Watergate break-in, investigators disclosed Monday.

The passport, made out in the name of "Edward Hamilton" — the same initials as Hunt's — reportedly was found on Frank Sturgis when he was arrested at Democratic national headquarters here last June.

Disclosure of the passport added a new dimension to the Watergate scandal: the possibility that current CIA employees were involved in political espionage. The CIA has repeatedly assured Congress its fake documents are kept under tight control and never permitted to circulate to persons outside the agency.

Hunt and several others under indictment have acknowledged they once worked for

the CIA but have asserted they were no longer in its employ at the time of the Watergate incident.

Hunt's wife was killed in the United Air Lines crash in Chicago Friday and her purse was found to contain more than \$10,000 in cash. Police reported one of the bills bore the written inscription: "Good luck. FS" — the same initials as Sturgis'. The serial number on the bill started "007" — the numerical code for the fictional secret agent James Bond.

Sturgis has never been identified as a direct employe of the CIA but was known to have had extensive agency contacts in Miami. An ex-Marine, he fought with Fidel Castro in Cuba and was rewarded with the gambling casino concession in Havana after the triumph of the revolution.

But the two men had an early falling out, and Sturgis went over to the Cuban exile community in Miami. He was once arrested on a boat off British Honduras in what he described as an attempted "commando raid" on Cuba.

A soldier of fortune, he is believed to have used several pseudonyms besides that of Edward Hamilton. He was born Frank Fiorini in Norfolk, Va., but took the name of his stepfather when his mother remarried.

Hunt was hired as a White House consultant by Charles W. Colson, special counsel to President Nixon. He openly declares in his Who's Who listing that he has operated under a number of pseudonyms — Robert Dietrich, John Baxter and Gordon Davis.

The federal indictment charges that Hunt was present on the evening of the Watergate break-in but left before police arrived to apprehend five persons inside the Democratic headquarters. He was linked to the case through a \$25,000 cash fund, a campaign contribution to the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Investigators said the fake passport and the possible CIA role in the incident would probably be explored at the trial scheduled to begin next month.

The CIA is prohibited by law from conducting any operations within the United States and, of course, is proscribed from taking part in domestic politics.

It is known, however, to have been deeply involved with the Cuban community and with other anti-communist exile groups in Chicago and other cities.

The investigators said they did not yet have a plausible theory as to why Mrs. Hunt was carrying such a large bundle of cash to Chicago.