

Colson Knew of Hunt's Fake Cable

Washington

Charles W. Colson, former special counsel for President Nixon, has confirmed that four months before the Watergate burglary he discovered that conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. had written a phony cable implicating President Kennedy in the assassination of South Vietnam's President Ngo Dinh Diem.

According to William Lambert, former a reporter for Life magazine, who interviewed Colson over the weekend, Colson made the discovery in February, 1972, but failed to disclose the fabrication.

Colson, reached at his law office here yesterday, said he would have no comment on the matter other than to say that he had great respect for Lambert as a journalist.

Asked specifically why he had not taken steps to fire Hunt, and why he had not

warned superiors that Hunt was a potential criminal, Colson repeated that he had no comment.

Colson and Hunt were friends, and Colson had recommended Hunt for a job as a White House consultant.

As late as Sunday, Colson still denied that he knew that the cable itself was fake. (29 MAR)

Finally, in a telephone conversation Monday, Lambert said, he pressed Colson into admitting that he had known for more than a year now that Hunt had manufactured the language that seemed to make the assassination of Diem an order from President Kennedy.

N.Y. Times Service