

CIA 'Research Role'

General Linked to Ellsberg Burglary

Officer Is Marine Chief

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Washington

General Robert E. Cushman Jr., the Marine Corps commandant who in 1971 was deputy director of Central Intelligence authorized the use of Central Intelligence Agency material and research in the burglary of the office of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, sources close to the Watergate case said yesterday.

The sources said that the general, who is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acted at the request of John D. Ehrlichman, President Nixon's chief adviser for domestic affairs, who resigned last week.

Cushman, who left the CIA in 1971, was questioned by FBI agents late last week, the sources said, and reportedly accepted full responsibility for the decision to permit the CIA to help E. Howard Hunt Jr., and G. Gordon Liddy prepare for the break-in.

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The New York Times reported yesterday that federal prosecutors in the Watergate case had summoned some officials of the CIA to discuss that agency's role in the burglary. Cushman apparently was among the first to be questioned on the agency's activity.

General Cushman could not be reached for comment yesterday. Marine corps officials said that he was traveling to the Netherlands and would not return to Washington until later this week.

The prosecuting team, headed by Earl J. Silbert and Seymour Glanzer, first learned of the burglary at the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding last month in an interview with John W. Dean III, who resigned as counsel to

See Back Page

From Page 1

the president last week.

In subsequent grand jury testimony last Wednesday, Hunt told of utilizing CIA disguises, fake identification papers, and even a "safe-house" in the Washington area that were provided by the agency's clandestine services, the "dirty tricks" department.

Hunt, a 20-year CIA veteran who, along with Liddy and five others, was arrested last year in connection with the Watergate bugging, also told the grand jury that he believed that cooperation with the CIA had been arranged by one of his superiors, Egil Krogh Jr.

At the time, according to grand jury testimony, Krogh was directly in charge of a special White House team that had been set up in the aftermath of the June, 1971, publication of the Pentagon papers to determine who was involved in the disclosure of the documents.

Krogh, at the time of Ehrlichman's key deputies for domestic affairs, reportedly recruited both Liddy and Hunt over the next few weeks, and the two men immediately began planning the operation to get the psychiatrist's records.

Krogh who had reportedly resigned his new job as

undersecretary of transportation, sent a classified affidavit to the Ellsberg court Friday in which he reportedly accepted full responsibility for the burglary.

Two sources confirmed yesterday, however, that Krogh did not have the authority to deal directly with the CIA on such matters as arranging help for clandestine operation inside the United States.

One source knowledgeable about the Hunt-Liddy burglary plan gave the following version of how the 'Agency's' cooperation was enlisted:

The CIA connection was initiated by Hunt, who had instant telephone communication with that agency and other intelligence offices through a highly secure scrambler telephone that he and Liddy ordered installed in their quarters in the Executive Office Building, next to the White House.

After being told by a CIA official that further authority was needed before the agency could provide any assistance, the source said, Hunt went to Krogh, who took the problem to his superior, Ehrlichman.

Then the source went on: "Ehrlichman makes a telephone call to Cushman, and says, 'Hey, these guys need



GENERAL CUSHMAN
Marine Corps boss

some chores done. Won't you take care of it?" Cushman says, "O.K., I'll do it."

"There was absolutely nothing in writing," the source said. "There was only one call, just a little lean-on call by Ehrlichman. And then Hunt and Liddy began asking for safe-houses and all the rest."

At the time of Ehrlichman's alleged call, all the key intelligence agencies of the government were said to be cooperating with the Hunt-Liddy group.

President Nixon was known to have been angered by the disclosure of the Pen-

tagon Papers, which were published in part by the New York Times in June, 1971, and by publication by the Times a few months later of details of the strategic arms agreement, then being worked out by the White House and the Soviet Union.

Henry A. Kissinger, the President's assistant for national security affairs, lent David A. Young Jr., one of his assistants on the National Security Staff, to the Hunt-Liddy group, which some have referred to as "plumbers" trying to stop leaks of information. Young, who has been unavailable to newsmen, left the government three weeks ago.

Ehrlichman, in a statement provided to the FBI and read at the Ellsberg trial, acknowledged learning of the burglary — which failed to produce any of Ellsberg's psychiatric records — after it took place and warning Krogh and the others not to do it again.

The complete connection between Hunt's White House operations and the CIA is not fully determined. One former high-ranking White House adviser said yesterday that Hunt had been recommended for his job with the "plumbers" by Richard Helms, the former director of Central Intelligence, who

was named ambassador to Iran early this year.

Attempts to reach Helms by telephone Saturday and yesterday were unsuccessful.

In his Senate confirmation hearings in February for the post in Iran, Helms declared that his agency had nothing to do with the bugging and wiretapping of the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex. He said he had "no control" over agency employees who had left.

Agency officials refused to comment on the reported link between Ehrlichman and Cushman, but one official did confirm a report yesterday in the Washington Post that an agency psychological profile of Ellsberg had been prepared and provided over protests of some agency officials.

According to Hunt's grand jury testimony, which was released Friday in Los Angeles, the psychological profile was written by Dr. Bernard Melloy, said to be in charge of the agency's psychological assessment unit. Melloy subsequently told his superiors that providing such a study for domestic purposes was an error in judgment, the Post said, but that he was ordered to complete the project nonetheless.

It could not be learned whether Cushman, who served as deputy director of the CIA for two years, had ordered Melloy to cooperate with the White House.

One source with close connections to the agency described many senior agency officials as being "angry and depressed" over the new disclosures. "They feel that irreparable damage has been done by this to the CIA," the source said of the senior officials. "They think the whole project was an absolute violation of the CIA's charter."

The legality of the agency's cooperation with Hunt and Liddy is questionable. The National Security Act of 1947, which set up the agency, expressly bars it from having any "police, subpoena, law-enforcement powers or internal security functions."

But the law also authorizes the agency to protect "intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure" — an authority that seems relevant to what the government viewed in June, 1971, as the illegal theft and publication of the Pentagon papers, a secret Defense Department study on the history of the Vietnam war.