

Pentagon papers Charges Are Dismissed;
 Judge Byrne Frees Ellsberg and Russo; (8 col)
 Assails 'Improper Government Conduct'

CUSHMAN ACCOUNT

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**General Says Helms
 'Assented' to Aid to
 Hunt for Break-In
 NYTimes**

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 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 11—

Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr. said today that Richard Helms, his superior at the Central Intelligence Agency in 1971, had "assented" to agency assistance to E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the conspirators in the Watergate case.

Mr. Helms, now Ambassador to Iran, was Director of Central Intelligence at the time the agency, in the summer of 1971, provided disguises and equipment to Hunt, upon the request of the White House.

The materials supplied to Hunt were used for the break-in at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist on Sept. 3, 1971, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

General Cushman, now commandant of the Marine Corps, confirmed today that as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, he had ordered agency materials made available to Hunt.

But he said that a few days after doing so, he reported his actions to Mr. Helms and "he assented to what I had done."

The general's account of C.I.A. involvement with Hunt was made in a three-page sworn affidavit that he personally presented today to three separate Congressional committees. He cut short a European tour to appear before the committees.

Helms's Rule Widened

His comments about having informed his superior of what he had done would appear to indicate that Mr. Helms was more fully aware of agency involvement in the Watergate and Pentagon papers cases than had previously been suggested.

Earlier this week, current C.I.A. officials disclosed that agency preparation of a personality assessment of Dr. Ellsberg, a defendant in the Pentagon papers trial, had been made with the approval of Mr.

Helms.

But, until today, it had been widely assumed that Mr. Helms may have been unaware that General Cushman had agreed to a request by John D. Ehrlichman, at that time a key White House aide, for C.I.A. assistance to Mr. Hunt.

Senator J. W. Fulbright, in a television interview sponsored last night by the National Public Affairs Center, said that Mr. Helms had assured him earlier this spring that the

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agency had not had anything to do with the Watergate affair.

The Arkansas Democrat said that when Mr. Helms appeared before the committee for confirmation hearings on his appointment as Ambassador, "I asked him specifically during his examination, did the C.I.A. have anything to do with any of this Watergate, and he said not."

It is understood that the secret transcript of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the Helms confirmation hearing confirms Senator Fulbright's comment.

Hunt pleaded guilty last Jan. 10 to having taken part in the bugging of Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex last year. He received a provisional 35-year prison term. The sentence could be reduced later if Hunt is found to have cooperated in the current Watergate investigations. He has also admitted taking part in the office burglary of Dr. Ellsberg's former psychiatrist in Los Angeles.

General Cushman, resplendent in full uniform with row upon row of battle ribbons and a sharpshooter's medal, marched

from one Congressional committee to another for what turned out to be day-long interrogations.

He appeared first before a House Armed Services Subcommittee, headed by Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan; then before a Senate appropriations subcommittee, headed by John L. McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas; and finally before the Senate Armed Services Committee, of which Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, is temporary chairman.

Domestic Moves Studied

All three committees are inquiring into the issue of whether the C.I.A. exceeded its authority by becoming involved in domestic undercover operations. The agency's charter precludes it from internal security

functions.

The committee meetings were closed, but the general's sworn affidavit was made public after each session.

Senator McClellan said that his appropriations subcommittee hoped to hear testimony next week from Mr. Helms, who is in Iran.

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, after hearing the Cushman testimony before the Armed Services Com-

mittee, said, "I don't think the C.I.A. violated the law. I think the White House violated the law."

Senator Sympington, too, indicated that he believed that the White House request for the agency's assistance was improper.

In his affidavit, General Cushman said that on July 7, 1971, Mr. Ehrlichman called him from the White House and said that Hunt had been made a consultant on security matters. He said that Mr. Ehrlichman asked that the agency give Hunt some assistance.



Associated Press

E. Howard Hunt Jr.

General Cushman, a military aide to President Nixon when Mr. Nixon was Vice President, said that he has known Mr. Ehrlichman for 10 or 12 years and respected him highly.

"I also knew that he [Mr. Ehrlichman] was one of the three chiefs of staff, as it were, to the President and that therefore he spoke with the authority of the President's name," General Cushman said.

The general said he was aware that leaks of intelligence information were of great concern within the government at that time and that Mr. Ehrlichman had been named "within the White House as the man in charge of stopping security leaks and overhauling the security regulations."

Orders for Interview

In view of that, the general continued, he concluded that Hunt had been hired by the White House to act in the security field and that the C.I.A. was being ordered to

assist him.

He said that Hunt appeared in his office on July 22, 1971, and said that he had "a very sensitive one-time interview that the White House wanted him to hold" but that he dared not reveal his identity.

General Cushman also noted that Hunt was "a highly respected and honorably retired C.I.A. employe of 20 years' service."

The general said that he was unable to discover any details of the plan. He said Hunt told him that he was under White House orders not to reveal the nature or scope of the planned interview and not to reveal the fact that he even worked for the White House.

"He did assure me, however, the general said, "that he was working to be a good purpose in the interests of the country."

About a month after giving Hunt a wig and other disguise materials and various equipment and alias identification papers, the general said, he found that Hunt "was becoming more and more unreasonable and demanding" and going far beyond what seemed necessary for "a one-time interview."

At that point, the general said, he stopped "all relationships" with Hunt and so informed Mr. Ehrlichman.

He said he also told Mr. Ehrlichman "that in my opinion, Mr. Hunt was of questionable judgment" and with that left Mr. Ehrlichman to do "as he deemed proper."