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AP Wirephoto

JOHN DEAN III
Threat on life

Marshals' Close Guard Over Dean

Washington

Federal marshals have been assigned to an around-the-clock watch over John W. Dean III after a reported threat on the former presidential counsel's life.

Since Dean began his testimony in the Watergate hearings on Monday, he has been closely followed by two deputy U.S. marshals who have occupied seats in the spectator's seats directly behind him, his attorneys and

his wife, Maureen. The marshals have been obvious to television viewers.

William E. Hall, acting director of the U.S. Marshal's service, confirmed the watch yesterday and said that the men had been assigned Sunday night at the request of Archibald Cox, special federal prosecutor in connection with the Watergate affair.

The request was made "by mutual agreement" between Cox and attorneys for Dean after the witness received an unspecified threat on his life while at home Sunday evening. *24 JUN*

As early as May, Dean had told Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (Rep - Conn.) his life had been threatened after he made it clear he would appear before the Senate Watergate committee to tell what he knew of high - level involvement in the Watergate scandal.

Observers in the committee chamber have noted the lengths to which the marshals have gone in performing their duties. Once this week, a reporter offered Dean a box of cough drops when it appeared his throat had become dry. A marshal grabbed the box from Dean, examined its contents, and then put the box in his pocket. Dean soothed his throat with a glass of water.

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