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16 February 1973

TALKING PAPER

SUBJECT: CIA and the Watergate

The press has referred on many occasions to the CIA backgrounds or associations of a number of the Watergate defendants. To make the record perfectly clear, CIA had no connection with the Watergate incident or with the political activities of the Watergate defendants. CIA had a variety of relationships with the individual Watergate defendants in the past. A review of these past relationships should clarify CIA's position and avoid possible misconstruction or misunderstanding as to CIA's actual position.

Mr. E. Howard Hunt

Howard Hunt was a CIA employee from 8 November 1949 to 30 April 1970. While in CIA, he had a variety of duties involving intelligence collection and [redacted] (b)(1)  
 He was involved in the Bay of Pigs operation in a mid-level position. (b)(3)  
 He was gradually phased out of more delicate operations due to a romantic streak in his nature (in particular reflected in his fictional writings for publication under several pen names, none revealing any classified material), although he was retained on Agency rolls for compassionate purposes due to the injury of a daughter in an automobile accident and the large medical expenses involved. Mr. Hunt had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the Agency, with a number of whom he maintained contact after his retirement from the Agency. He also performed one or two minor editorial services for the Agency in writing up recommendations for awards, etc., after his retirement. Mr. Hunt joined the White House staff in the summer of 1971. On 22 July 1971 Mr. Hunt visited General Cushman, then Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, and requested help on a sensitive project he was undertaking for the White House. He stated that he wanted to interview certain people but not be recognizable to them. For this purpose he requested some

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alias documentation (driver's license, organization membership cards, etc.) similar to material he had been furnished for operational use in 1960 while an Agency employee. General Cushman arranged that he be provided the requested assistance through appropriate technical officers of the Agency (see attachment). Mr. Hunt also requested and received from them simple disguise materials. In subsequent meetings with the technical officers, Mr. Hunt requested and was provided a commercial tape recorder, a camera, and similar alias documentation and disguise materials for a then unidentified associate (later identified from press photos as Mr. G. Gordon Liddy). Mr. Hunt's escalation of requests culminated in a request that the Agency actively support him by manning a telephone and receiving letters at a New York address. At this point, the Agency determined that the requests were beyond an appropriate level and could risk the Agency's involvement in activities outside its proper role. Consequently, on 27 August 1971 assistance to Mr. Hunt (and Mr. Liddy) was terminated, and no further assistance was extended thereafter. During the course of his discussions with Agency officers, the implication was gained that Mr. Hunt's project involved an attempt to identify the source of leaks of classified Government documents at that time. Since 27 August 1971, the Agency has had no further association with Mr. Hunt.

Mr. G. Gordon Liddy

See above. No other relationship.

Mr. Eugenio Rolando Martinez Careaga

Mr. Martinez had worked with the Agency during the Bay of Pigs and on certain operations thereafter. In 1969 he was terminated from full-time employment but was put on a \$100.00-a-month retainer to ensure the availability of his services if maritime operations for which he was trained should be needed again and to report on Cuban exile activities as learned by him in the Miami area. He was met on a regular basis for this purpose and provided normal reports on these subjects. He reported on several social contacts with Mr. Howard Hunt but gave no indication of his or Hunt's involvement in any operations of the nature of the Watergate incident.

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Mr. Frank Anthony Sturgis

Mr. Sturgis was never recruited by the CIA. He was a soldier of fortune who has been involved in a number of activities aimed at Cuba over the years and for a time was associated with Mr. Martinez, discussed above.

Mr. James W. McCord, Jr.

Mr. James McCord was employed by CIA from 22 August 1951 to 31 August 1970. While in CIA, Mr. McCord had been a Security Officer. When he retired from CIA, he formed a firm known as McCord Associates specializing in providing security services to business and similar clients. By arrangement with Mr. McCord, a number of retiring CIA personnel were referred to McCord Associates with a view to possible employment. However, there was no official connection between CIA and McCord Associates, and CIA was unaware of and totally unconnected with Mr. McCord's relationship with the Watergate incident.

Mr. Virgilio Ramon Gonzales-Rosabel

Mr. Virgilio Ramon Gonzales-Rosabel is not on record in any component of the Agency.

Mr. Bernard L. Barker

Mr. Barker was utilized by CIA in the early 1960's but was terminated on 31 July 1966. There has been no further connection between Mr. Barker and CIA.

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26 September 1960	Massachusetts Driver's License and unspecified club and organizational cards [redacted]	Not returned (b)(1)
30 September 1960	[redacted] Driver's License in name [redacted]	Not returned (b)(3) (planned use (b)(1) only one week (b)(3) and exchange for [redacted] (b)(1) license in same (b)(3) alias)
23 July 1971	Alias documents issued in name Edward Joseph Warren. Disguise materials (wig, glasses, and speech alteration device) issued.	Not returned
20 August 1971	[redacted] recorder in typewriter case and business cards issued in name of Edward J. Warren.	Not returned (b)(1) (b)(3)
25 August 1971	Commercial [redacted] camera [redacted] issued.	Returned on 27 August as un- (b)(1) suitable (b)(3) (b)(3)
	Associate disguised (wig and glasses) and given alias documents in name George F. Leonard.	Not returned; said would be returned or destroyed.
27 August 1971	Film developed and returned. New York address and phone services refused.	
31 August 1971	Credit card requested and refused.	

[redacted] (b)(3)

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