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# Wilson held valuable to terror-bent countries

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Edwin P. Wilson, the ex-CIA agent charged with providing terrorist training and explosives illegally to Libya, would be a valuable ally of any terrorist-prone government, according to U.S. prosecutors.

They made this argument in a brief filed with the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here last week, opposing efforts of Wilson's lawyers to reduce his \$20 million bond. The brief was made public yesterday.

Wilson, first indicted here in April 1980 on charges of conspiring to ship explosives illegally and to commit murder in the Mideast left the United States in 1979. He has been held at an undisclosed location since he was arrested last June 16.

Wilson's lawyers, in appealing the high bond imposed by U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt, cited an array of cases of mobsters and other defendants who were allowed bonds they could pay.

"None of the defendants in any of the cases cited by appellant had the capacity and the allure that Edwin P. Wilson has for certain foreign governments that might willingly offer him safe harbor," the government's opposing brief said. It added:

"Edwin P. Wilson is an educated, wealthy and resourceful 54-year-old man who possesses training, background, contacts and assets that would make him an exceptionally valuable ally to sovereign governments which are anxious to equip and train armies and individuals in sophisticated weaponry and the use of explosives for terrorist activities."

The government charges Wilson worked for Libya, without registering as a foreign agent as required, since he left the CIA and was subsequently fired from a Navy job.

"Since 1977," the government brief said, "Wilson has secured tens of millions of dollars worth of contracts to supply goods and services to the Libyan government."

The contracts included providing pilots and technicians to train Libyans in maintaining and operating Chinook helicopters and maintaining C-130 aircraft, and providing retired U.S. Army Special Forces officers to train them in military tactics, it said.

The contracts also called for "the provision of millions of dollars worth of military clothing, parachutes, grenade launchers, automatic rifles, revolvers and ammunition for Libya's army (and) supplying of sophisticated night vision devices that could be used for rifle scopes," the brief said.

Wilson's attorneys urged the appeals court to reduce his bail to an amount he could meet by pledging his U.S. property in Washington and Northern Virginia, which has an estimated market value of about \$9.5 million.

To support their argument that Wilson deserves a bond he can meet, his attorneys argued he gave the CIA outstanding service, has since provided assistance in sensitive cases, and concluded it is "hard to imagine a case in which an American citizen has devoted himself more conscientiously to his country's interests."

U.S. attorneys countered that all of Wilson's deeds were, in fact, self-serving and discounted the defense argument that pledging his local property would ensure he will appear for trial. No trial date has been set.

"It is obvious that Edwin Wilson could easily forfeit all holdings which he advised the court about... and still maintain a luxurious lifestyle in fugitivity for the remainder of his life," the brief said.

Another major reason for keeping the high bond, the government said, is its claim that Wilson has made a threat on the life of Assistant U.S. Attorney E. Lawrence Barcella, the chief prosecutor in the case.

Early last February, the brief pointed out, defense attorney John A. Keats warned Barcella that Wilson had learned his co-defendant, Francis E. Terpil, had contracted with professional PLO assassins in the Middle East to have Barcella and his family murdered.

Terpil is now a fugitive living abroad after jumping bond, the government says.

In the application for a reduced bail, this warning was described as an act of cooperation on Wilson's part. However, prosecutors say Wilson himself has revealed his own plans to have Barcella killed.

Wilson unwittingly discussed plans to have Barcella killed with an undercover U.S. marshal during a flight from Zurich, Switzerland, to Madrid, Spain, last June 14, the brief said.