

'Bugging' Case Figure Linked to '57 Trial

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John J. Frank, one of the defendants in the Mayflower Hotel "electronic eavesdropping" case, is believed by authorities to be the John Joseph Frank who was indicted by a Federal grand jury in 1957 on charges of failing to register as an agent of the Dominican Republic.

Frank could not be reached for comment at his residence at 7608 Columbia pike, in Fairfax County, or at his Washington office.

The John J. Frank in the Dominican case was indicted in May, 1957, by a Federal grand jury on charges that he violated the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 by failing to register as an agent of the late Generalissimo Trujillo and the Dominican Republic.



JOHN J. FRANK

—AP Photo

Government prosecutors identified him as a former FBI agent and a former Central Intelligence Agency employee who had received a degree at Georgetown University Law School in 1941.

Conviction that was set aside nearly a year later—in October, 1958—by the United States Court of Appeals in a 2-to-one decision, sending the conviction on the ground that during the 1957 trial the Government prosecutor attempted to connect Frank with the March, 1956, disappearance of Dr. Jesus de Galindez, a Columbia University professor and enemy of the Dominican dictator.

The appellate court ruled that evidence regarding Dr. Galindez and his missing plane pilot, Gen. Murphy,

"too slight" in its probative value and "too great" in its prejudicial tendency.

Last seen in 1956

The American pilot was last seen in December, 1956, in Ciudad Trujillo, where at least one account said he boasted that he knew the details of the professor's disappearance. The Trujillo government later said Mr. Murphy had been murdered by another pilot, who then committed suicide.

When Frank's conviction was set aside, the Government elected to try him a second time. On March 12, 1959, the fifth day of the second trial, Frank pleaded "no contest" to the charge of failing to register as a foreign agent.

Although the "no contest" plea is technically different from a guilty plea, District Court Judge Walter W. Youngdahl accepted the plea on the condition that Frank register as a foreign agent with the Justice Department.

The case came to an end on March 12, 1959, when Judge Youngdahl fined Frank \$500.