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LIDDY SAYS HE WOULD HAVE KILLED IF ORDERED
WASHINGTON

G. Gordon Liddy said in an interview published Friday that he would have killed columnist Jack Anderson and Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt had he been ordered to do so.

Liddy, a disbarred lawyer and former FBI agent who served 52 months in prison for his part in the Watergate break-in, said in an interview with USA Today that the deaths of Anderson and Hunt, suggested but never carried out, would have been justified because of "intelligence" considerations.

Published reports in 1975 said a "senior official in the Nixon White House" ordered Anderson to be killed and his death to be made to look accidental. Liddy said the decision to go ahead had to be taken "from a much higher level than I was" and subsequently was not made.

"If the order had come, would you have carried it out?" Liddy was asked.

"Yes, that's correct," he replied.

Liddy said concern about Anderson and Hunt had nothing to do with politics or the re-election of President Richard Nixon.

"It has solely to do with matters of intelligence," Liddy said. "It was not until an Anderson column caused the death of one of our intelligence people posted abroad that that thought was even entertained."

No precise explanation was offered for Hunt, the former CIA agent who also went to jail for Watergate and is now a writer of spy novels.

Before the Anderson order was abandoned, Liddy said, he was ordered to discuss the problem with "Dr. Edward Gunn of the CIA" to come up with a recommendation that would "guarantee -- that was the operative word -- that Anderson would not repeat that conduct."

He described Gunn as "the CIA's assassination expert."

Liddy said he had just finished appearing in the television program "Airwolf," and making a second episode for "Miami Vice" and planned to make a movie in Chile and another in Cyprus. He also runs the G. Gordon Liddy Academy of Corporate Security in Florida and commands the Hurricane Force, a group of professional soldiers "organized to perform extraction missions (in Third World countries) for private parties."

Liddy declined to say whether his force had been contacted by the families of the American hostages in Lebanon.

His academy trains applicants in the art of self-defense and survival, including how to live off the land.

"Every single day, our special forces persons are eating grubs, ants, locusts, rats, anything they can catch. They are not taught just to survive out there, but to be able to prevail -- to win -- over their enemies."

Though Liddy said just about any fur-bearing animal is edible, he warned against eating polar bear liver. "It is highly toxic to humans," he said.