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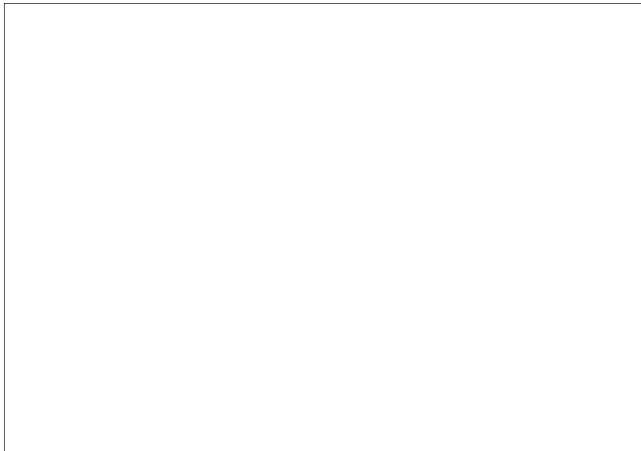
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21 February 1974 Paper "CIA Tapes and Transcripts of Tapes" with  
Attachment A (Removal of Room/Telephone Recording System Offices  
of DCI, DDCI, Executive Director-Comptroller)  
Attachment B (Telephone Call to General Cushman from John Ehrlichman -  
7 July 1971; Affidavit of Karl Wagner dated 5 February 1974)

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CIA Tapes and Transcripts of TapesI. GeneralA. Purpose

For many years the offices and phones of the three top CIA officials (Director of Central Intelligence, the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence and the Executive Director-Comptroller) had the capability of recording conversations. These recordings, done on a selective basis, served as note-taking substitutes where accurate recall was needed. There is nothing illegal about taping telephone or other conversations when one party is aware that it is being taped, although telephone company rules require that a buzzer be attached. This paper covers such recordings made subsequent to 31 December 1969.

B. Systems1. Phone

Taping of incoming telephone conversations was handled by secretaries in the offices involved.

2. Room

The "room" system was capable of recording conversations in a specific area. This system was supported by technicians in a remote recording facility and a secretary transcriber supervised by a technician.

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### C. Current Status

The capability for recording telephone calls or office conversations no longer exists. The last room conversation recorded and transcribed was on 11 January 1973. We have found no records to disclose the date of the last telephone recording. Attachment A sets forth the dates that the telephone and office recording systems were dismantled in the offices of the Director, the Deputy Director, and the Executive Director-Comptroller.

## II. Phone Recording Procedure

### A. System

A recorder was attached to individual telephone instruments. With few exceptions, the telephone recordings were transcribed in the principals' offices. Such recordings were for such transitory purposes as reminders for further action by the principal, not for permanent retention. As in the case of note-taking, recordings and transcriptions were selective--a particular conversation may not have been recorded at all or in its entirety, nor would there necessarily have been a transcription of all that was recorded. The tapes and the transcriptions were maintained under the exclusive control of that office. A backup recording capability existed at the remote recording facility for office "A" (see Attachment A).

### B. Tapes

Telephone tapes normally were erased shortly after use (within a day or so) and reused. A careful search has failed to disclose the existence of any such tapes.

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### C. Transcripts

The only transcripts of either of the above telephone recordings or of stenographic notes of such conversations still extant are those involving conversations between the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, General Cushman, and Mr. Ehrlichman and other individuals assigned to the White House (see Attachment B). Of the ten such transcripts, only one, the 7 July 1971 conversation between General Cushman and Mr. Ehrlichman, is Watergate related. The transcript of this conversation was provided to the appropriate congressional and executive investigative bodies as soon as it was discovered. Since telephone recording was used as a note-taking substitute, there is no doubt that finished memoranda prepared by principals incorporated the substance of some of the recordings. To the Agency's knowledge, all such memoranda relating to the various "Watergate" investigations have been made available to the congressional and executive investigative bodies concerned.

### III. Room Recording Procedure

The system could be activated only in the principals' offices. The recording took place in a remote facility. Once a conversation had been recorded, the technician assigned to the recording facility, working under the direction and control of the principal's office, was instructed either to destroy, transcribe, or erase the tape. Two recordings were made of each conversation, a primary tape and a backup tape. If a transcript was to be prepared, both tapes were delivered by the technician to a secretary-transcriber who worked under the technician's supervision.

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The secretary-transcriber assigned to the remote recording facility made an original transcription only. The backup tape was insurance against a defective or inaudible primary tape. The transcriber maintained a log which included the date of the recording, the Agency principal by title, the number of participants in the conversation, the location of the conversation, the completion date of the transcript, and the date the transcript was delivered to the principal's office by the technician. The transcriber would also mark on the tape container the date of the conversation, the name of the principal, the name of the guests, when available, and the duration of the recording.

B. Tape

The recording technician picked up the two tapes and the transcript from the transcriber, delivered the transcript to the principal's office and stored the primary tape in a safe in the recording facility, after assigning and marking it with a sequential number. If the backup tape was no longer reusable, it was destroyed at that time. If it was reusable, it was erased and placed in the reusable tape file. (Prior to January 1972 the recorded portion of the reusable backup tape was clipped from the reel and destroyed. Subsequently, the recorded portion was only erased.) There were 38 conversations recorded during the period 1 January 1972 through 11 January 1973.

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The Agency has in its possession 36 erased, 10-1/2 inch reels of tapes which are believed to have been used as the backup tapes for these recordings. All identifying information on the backup tape containers was removed and destroyed. Short of an intensive technical investigation (which may or may not prove productive) the Agency has no way to determine whether these tapes carry any recapturable information or whether they relate to any particular conversations or principals.

C. Transcripts

The transcripts were completely controlled by the principals' offices. A review of all available records of meetings that were recorded reveal that most covered meetings with foreign intelligence personnel or individuals having business related to foreign intelligence. The only one of the transcripts related to Watergate was the 22 July 1971 Cushman/Hunt conversation.

IV. Destruction of Office Tapes

A. From 31 December 1969 to 22 January 1973

The technicians assigned to the remote recording facility prepared two separate listings for destruction at different times. The first list consisted of tapes #1 through #185 and was submitted to Mrs. Elizabeth Dunlevy, secretary to Mr. Helms, during the last quarter of 1970. The second list covered tapes #184 through #237 and was submitted to Mrs. Dunlevy during the first quarter of 1972. The lists served as the basis for telephonic advice from Mrs. Dunlevy to the technicians to destroy various tapes. The

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technician's log notes that tapes #1 through #54 (recorded during the period 22 September 1964 through 3 May 1965) were destroyed on 21 January 1972. Another notation indicates that tapes #55 through #183 (recorded during the period 3 May 1965 through 5 June 1970) were destroyed sometime prior to January 1973.

B. 24 January 1973

All other nonerased tapes of conversations recorded between 31 December 1969 and 24 January 1973 (except for tape #214 of the Cushman/Hunt conversation of 22 July 1971) were in storage in the recording facility on 24 January 1973 and were destroyed at the instruction of Mrs. Dunlevy. Included were tapes #184 through #275 (recorded during the period 23 June 1970 through 11 January 1973, the last recording made). The fact that tape #214 was in the possession of Mr. Colby's secretary, Miss Barbara Pindar, was called to the attention of Mrs. Dunlevy and was exempted from the destruction procedure. The destruction commenced 24 January 1973 and ended several days thereafter. In this and the previous destruction, the tape containers were also destroyed.

C. Transcripts

As a part of office routine Mrs. Dunlevy, in the process of preparing the office for Dr. Schlesinger (who was confirmed on 23 January 1973 to succeed Mr. Helms) received permission from Mr. Helms to destroy

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transcripts kept in a safe locked in a vault in the immediate office of the Director. She has stated that none of the transcripts contained any information related to Watergate.

In December 1971 General Cushman's papers were reviewed after he left CIA to become Marine Commandant. Aside from the tape and transcript of the 22 July 1971 Cushman/Hunt conversation, referred to previously and hereafter, the only transcripts retained were those concerning General Cushman's telephone conversations with members of the White House staff (see Attachment B).

The recording of conversations in the office of the DDCI was discontinued after General Cushman left CIA in December 1971.

There was only one recording of a conversation in the office of the Executive Director-Comptroller during the period in question. It occurred in June of 1970 but it concerned internal Agency affairs only and it was in no way related to Watergate.

#### V. Records

Based upon a reconstruction of information available in the logs and other supplementary material, and from interviews, there is no evidence of a recording of any conversation relevant to "Watergate" except as previously noted above.

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VI. Summary

A. Mr. Helms has stated that, "I never destroyed any tapes or anything else having any remote bearing on 'Watergate'."

B. It is the recollection of Mrs. Dunlevy, who maintained complete control of the transcripts for Mr. Helms, that none of the transcripts she destroyed were in any way related to "Watergate."

C. There is no indication in Agency records that any recording or transcript of an office conversation relevant to "Watergate" was ever destroyed. A transcript of the 22 July 1971 conversation between General Cushman and Mr. Hunt has been made available to all congressional and executive investigating bodies concerned. The primary tape of the conversation is currently in the possession of a congressional committee.

D. There is no indication in Agency records that any recording, stenographic notes, or transcript of a telephone conversation relevant to "Watergate" was ever destroyed. A transcript of the stenographic notes of the 7 July 1971 conversation between General Cushman and Mr. Ehrlichman has been made available to all congressional and executive investigating bodies concerned.

E. The Agency has made available to all congressional and executive investigating bodies concerned memoranda and information relevant to "Watergate." Some of the memoranda and information is or may have been the product of the recording of office or telephone conversations.

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F. There is no indication in Agency records that any relevant transcripts or tapes exist except as identified above.

G. Agency records on office conversations recorded include sensitive information involving intelligence sources and methods which the Director of Central Intelligence has a statutory responsibility to protect.

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