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20 December 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: E. Howard Hunt

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1. I phoned Paul Burns, Special Assistant to the DDO, and said that we had some leads that could be followed by whoever has the action in the DDO in tracking down Hunt's activities during the fall of 1964, when he was alleged to have been engaged in surveillance activities of Barry Goldwater.

2. I said that our files showed Hunt was in DO Division (Burns was not familiar with that title, but recognized it as the predecessor of FR Division) and in August 1964 was assigned to the Washington field office. I suggested that Stan Gaines, who was Deputy Division Chief of DO Division and now DCOS [redacted] might be in a position to give a few groups on what Hunt was supposed to be doing then. I suggested that he be queried by cable. Burns said Gaines is staying on under contract for a while, so would continue to be available.

3. I said that Fig Coleman was on the Iberian desk when the Hunt assignment to Madrid was brought up in 1964 and when Hunt went to the field in 1965. He could give the background on the assignment, which seems to have been through Karamessines at Helms' direction. His recollection would give leads. I told him that Coleman became COS [redacted] later, after Hunt left Spain, and could provide information on what Hunt did not do for the Agency during that period. I suggested that both Helms and Karamessines should be queried. I gave as a possible press treatment that Hunt was engaged in domestic operations (something Senator Baker is pursuing) and that his assignment to Spain after the election could be presented as giving him time to cool off. I thought we had to pursue the matter to be sure we know the facts.

4. I asked Burns to be sure that we are on information distribution of cables to the field on this, given our assigned responsibility for keeping files on Watergate. He said we are on the PLMHPLANK for messages to Helms. He would advise the action officer. I said we are available for any help we can give.

S. D. Breckinridge
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(RS)