SECRET 21912Z DEC 73 STAFF

TO: TEHRAN.

ASSADIR HEKIM FROM MAURY

REF: TEHRAN

1. 21 DECEMBER WASHINGTON POST HEADLINES PAGE 1 STORY "HUNT'S ROLE IN 1964 ELECTION, NIXON UNIT TOLD." LEAD PARAGRAPHS FOLLOW:

WATERGATE CONSPIRATOR E. HOWARD HUNT'S ALLEGED "SURVEILLANCE" OF SEN. BARRY GOLDBERG (R., ARIZ) DURING THE 1964 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN CONSISTED OF HAVING A SECRETARY PICK UP PRESS RELEASES, SPEECHES, TRAVEL SCHEDULES AND OTHER MATERIALS AT REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE ACCOUNTS OF HUNT'S SECRET TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE SELECT WATERGATE COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH HUNT'S ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WHILE HE WAS A CIA AGENT, WERE ORIGINALLY DESCRIBED TO THE WASHINGTON POST AS BEING A "SURVEILLANCE" OPERATION OF GOLDWATER ON ORDERS FROM THEN PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON, THE SOURCE OF THAT INFORMATION DECLINED INITIALLY TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS. YESTERDAY, THE SAME SOURCE, WHO CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED UNDER A PROMISE OF CONFIDENTIALITY, ACKNOWLEDGED WHEN QUESTIONED AGAIN THAT HUNT HAD

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2008

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DESCRIBED A PICK-UP OPERATION FROM GOLDWATER HEADQUARTERS TO THIRD WATERTAG COMMITTEE STAFF AND HAD PROVIDED FEW DETAILS. THE SOURCE ALSO DECLINED SAYING THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAD INITIATED THE ORDER FOR THE OPERATION."

2. STORY MAKES FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS:

A. HUNT REPORTEDLY TESTIFIED GOLDWATER SPEECH IN PRESS RELEASES DELIVERED CHEF COOPER IN WHITE HOUSE BUT COOPER QUOTED AS SAYING HE KNEW THEY GOT THE MATERIAL BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM AND HE NEVER MET HUNT.

B. BAKER HAS EXPRESSED CONTINUING INTEREST IN CIA WATERTAG ROLE BUT QUOTED AS SAYING HE HAS "NO PRESENT PLANS TO PURSUE THIS LINE OF INQUIRY" (PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO GOLDWATER ANGLE) AND AS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT UNLESS RELATED TO WATERTAG, GOLDWATER ANGLE IS OUTSIDE COMMITTEE JURISDICTION.

C. ELIZABETH MCINTOSH, FORMER STAFFER IN HUNT'S DOWNTOWN OFFICE, QUOTED AS SAYING SHE "UNDERSTOOD" GOLDWATER MATERIAL DELIVERED LANGLEY HEADQUARTERS RATHER THAN WHITE HOUSE AND PURPOSE WAS "JUST TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH WHAT WAS GOING ON."

D. MEDZI QUOTED AS SAYING HE WAS "DUBIOUS" RE 20 DECEMBER POST STORY.
3. 21 December New York Times carries on page 21 David Rosenbaum story headlined "Hunt Said to Tell Investigators He Spied on Goldwater in 1964." Lead paragraphs follow: "R. Howard Hunt Jr., now in jail for coordinating the Watergate burglary, has told Senate Republican investigators that he gathered material on Senator Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign and passed it on to an officer of the Johnson administration, according to sources in the Senate Watergate Committee. During the campaign between Mr. Goldwater and President Johnson, Mr. Hunt was an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Hunt told Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr. and members of his staff this week, according to the committee sources that he acted as an intermediary for persons who picked up campaign literature, speeches, press releases, and travel schedules from Mr. Goldwater's office. Mr. Hunt reportedly said that he had operated under orders from a superior and had turned the material over to the superior. The sources would not disclose the name of the superior and would not say whether he was in the intelligence agency."

4. Story goes on to note that Democratic members of committee staff skeptical of allegations and quotes Tad Szulc, having just
COMPLETED AN AS YET UN PUBLISHED BOOK ABOUT HUNT ENTITLED "COMPULSIVE SPY" AS SAYING HUNT WORKING AGAINST GOLDWATER "COMPLETELY OUT OF CHARACTER."

5. REVIEWED SITUATION MORNING 21 DECEMBER WITH FEDZI WHO COMMENTED POST REALLY HAS EGG ON ITS FACE AND HE PLANS TO TELL THEM SO.

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