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February 7, 1983

# Ex-CIA agent convicted of smuggling explosives

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — A federal court jury Saturday handed ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson his second conviction on charges that he illegally smuggled arms and explosives to terrorists under the command of Libyan dictator Moammar Khadafy.

A six-man, six-woman panel deliberated four hours Friday and 6½ hours Saturday before finding Wilson guilty on all four counts of conspiracy to smuggle more than 20 tons of plastic explosives from Houston to Libya in 1977. The explosives were disguised as oil field drilling

fluid. Sentencing was delayed, but Wilson could receive up to 17 years in prison and \$145,000 in fines.

Wilson, 54, the tall, distinguished-looking son of a farmer who rose to high rank in the intelligence agency, was convicted in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 16 of supplying arms to Libyan intelligence agents.

After the Virginia trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison and fined \$200,000. He awaits trial in Washington, D.C. on charges of exporting explosives to Libya in 1976 and

conspiring to murder a Libyan official who was not harmed.

Prosecutors in the week-long trial told the Houston jury Wilson's supplying explosives to the Libyans was part of a broad-based \$22 million deal to supply arms to terrorist forces led by Khadafy.

Defense lawyers claimed Wilson, who served in the Marines, CIA and Naval Intelligence from 1951 through 1976, was a CIA agent when an explosives shipment went from Houston Intercontinental Airport to Libya Oct. 2, 1977.

The defense tried unsuccessful-

fully to introduce testimony the CIA readily discredited. Wilson's lawyer, James A. Briggs, who identified himself as third in command of CIA, said Wilson was not registered as an official or unofficial agent of the CIA after 1976.

Two other men were named with Wilson in Houston: Edward J. Bloom, 74, a California lawyer, and Donald Thresher, 41, a Houston forwarder, will be tried

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## 18-wheeler grazed by blast in latest trucking incident

**United Press International**  
The number of violent episodes in the independent trucker's strike went up and down in Texas, with an 18-wheeler grazed by a shotgun blast in south Dallas County, and a trucker confessing to self-inflicted damage in West Texas on Saturday.

In the latest incident, an 18-wheeler driving north on Interstate 45 in rural Dallas County at about 11:30 a.m. was pierced by shots in the passenger door, but there were no injuries, a Hutchins police dispatcher said.

The dispatcher said investigators had a suspect in mind, but no arrests had been made.

Also on Saturday, a Missouri man, who owned up to shooting his own truck and blaming striking truckers, was being held in the Reeves County jail, a sheriff's department spokesman said.

John Hargrove, 44, of St. Louis, was fined \$563 Thursday and sentenced to three days in jail on a charge of making a false

report in the Tuesday incident, sheriff's deputy Gary Ingram said.

Ingram said authorities were skeptical from the start. "It just didn't look right. The shots were too close to have been shot at a vehicle going down the road at the speed he said he was going," Ingram said.

Hargrove's admission dropped the number of strike-related incidents in Texas to six, but the Dallas County incident promptly raised the tally to seven.

In a pre-dawn incident Friday, a gunman used a high-powered rifle to shoot at two truckers traveling southbound on Interstate 35 about 1½ miles north of Denton, sheriff's deputies said.

A bullet sliced through the sleeping compartment of one truck about two feet behind the driver. Mark Spears, 33, of Dallas was uninjured, authorities said.

Spears, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, said he was driving

45,000 pounds of potatoe Dallas when he suddenly he was back fighting his gunship in the South Sea.

"I spent close to two years Vietnam," he said, "and flashed in my mind the sound of a bullet tearing through metal on my helicopter gunner. I thought it would be ironic to survive and then home, be out there doing a job, trying to support my family and then some guy try to shoot my head off."

Police said two shooting trucks on a San Antonio highway were reported. Officials however, that these were just coincidence with nationwide independent truckers strike.

Two trucks also were Tuesday, one near Houston and one near Altair in Galveston County. A third truck was at near Houston Wednesday. There were no injuries or arrests in any of the shooting

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