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Abstract Bernard Cornfeld returns to the U.S. to face indictment on charges of using two blue boxes to defraud PTT on international calls.

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Cornfeld Returns to U.S. to Face Fraud Indictment

Fugitive financier Bernard Cornfeld voluntarily returned to the United States Wednesday and surrendered to federal authorities on a three-count indictment charging him with defrauding the Pacific Telephone Co. He was released after posting a \$10,000 bond.

Believed to have been living in London and Mexico for the last eight months, Cornfeld declined to comment on specifics of the charges against him but said he was "confident" he would be found innocent.

Cornfeld was indicted last June on charges of using two illegal "blue

box" devices over a 16-month period in 1974 and 1975 to make 344 overseas phone calls from his Beverly Hills mansion. Blue boxes are devices that intercept the phone company's long distance overseas networks to avoid any charges.

Cornfeld was told by U.S. Magistrate Vanetta S. Tassopulos he would not have to forfeit his passport, nor would he be restricted in his travels.

The former head of the now defunct Investors Overseas Services was ordered to return to federal court March 15 for arraignment and entry of his plea.