

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
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Responsible of President John F. Kennedy

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CIA 5-12

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A RETIRED CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL WHO HAS STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND THE AGENCY SAYS HE AGREES WITH CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO ON ONE THING: CUBA HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE JOHN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

DAVID PHILLIPS, WHO WAS WITH THE CIA FOR 24 YEARS, NOTED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE SATURDAY THAT CASTRO HAS RECENTLY DENIED CUBAN IMPLICATION IN THE ASSASSINATION.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME I AGREE WITH CASTRO," PHILLIPS SAID. THE VETERAN CIA OFFICIAL WAS ONCE STATIONED IN CUBA AND LATER HEADED THE BAY OF PIGS OPERATION. HE SAID THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE SOLE KILLER.

OSWALD'S PREVIOUS DEFECTION TO THE SOVIET UNION AND HIS APPROACHES TO THE CUBANS HAVE LED TO PERSISTENT ALLEGATIONS THAT SOMEHOW MOSCOW AND HAVANA WERE INVOLVED IN THE KENNEDY KILLING.

BUT PHILLIPS SAID THAT THE CUBANS AND RUSSIANS "REGARDED OSWALD AS A KOOK AND DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM."

HE SAID THAT WHEN OSWALD APPLIED AT THE SOVIET AND CUBAN EMBASSIES IN MEXICO CITY FOR VISAS TO THOSE COUNTRIES IN SEPTEMBER, 1963 "HE WAS COMPLETELY REBUFFED."

"I'M CONVINCED HE WENT BACK AND DID IT HIMSELF," PHILLIPS SAID.

PHILLIPS SAID HE HAS WRITTEN TO ABOUT 400 OTHER FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS ASKING SUPPORT FOR HIS PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE CIA AND THAT 60 OF THEM HAVE JOINED HIS GROUP.

CBS CORRESPONDENT DANIEL SCHORR REPORTED DURING THE WEEKEND THAT AN OFFICER OF THE SOVIET SECRET POLICE WHO DEJECTED TO THE UNITED STATES ONLY 10 WEEKS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION HAD SEEN THE SOVIET FILE ON OSWALD.

ACCORDING TO SCHORR, THE DEFECTOR, YURI IVANOVICH NOSENKO, TOLD THE WARREN COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION AND THE FBI THAT THE SOVIETS WERE "SO LEERY OF OSWALD, WHO THEY CONSIDERED MENTALLY UNSTABLE AND POSSIBLY A 'SLEEPER' AMERICAN AGENT, THAT THEY TRIED TO GET HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND VETOED HIS RETURN WHEN HE APPLIED IN MEXICO CITY IN SEPTEMBER, 1963."

SCHORR SAID NONE OF THE NOSENKO INFORMATION WAS INCLUDED IN THE FINAL WARREN COMMISSION REPORT, BUT THAT IT HAD RECENTLY BEEN DECLASSIFIED. HE SAID FORMER CIA DIRECTOR JOHN MCCONE SAYS NOSENKO'S CLAIMS LATER WERE VERIFIED TO THE CIA'S SATISFACTION.

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