

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Likely Illinois Link in Cuba Plots

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WASHINGTON — In the summer of 1963, two shipments of explosives were secretly hauled from Collinsville, Ill., to anti-Castro Cuban exiles in Miami and New Orleans.

Those explosives may have been part of a mysterious chain of events that could have led to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy by Lee Harvey Oswald in November of that year, Senate investigators have concluded.

The explosives were to be used in a guerrilla attack on Cuba, the recent Senate Intelligence Committee report said, and Oswald's knowledge of the plans may have led to a decision by him or Castro officials to kill Kennedy in retaliation.

IT IS CERTAIN, the committee said, that a key FBI document on the explosives running from Collinsville was withheld from the Warren commission

that investigated the Kennedy assassination.

This suppression by the FBI was cited by the Senate committee as an important example of FBI efforts to protect its public image by hiding facts about its alleged laxity in checking Oswald before the assassination.

The Senate investigators also established a link between the Collinsville dynamite, American underworld plots against Fidel Castro and Central Intelligence Agency attempts to assassinate Castro.

The dynamite shipment to Miami in June, 1963, was intended for a bombing raid on a Shell oil refinery in Cuba, the FBI document said. It was financed by a "former gambling operator" in Havana and carried out in part by a Cuban exile identified in the Senate report merely as "A."

"A" also later bought 2,400 pounds of dynamite and 29 bomb casings in Collinsville that were also to be dropped on Cuban targets, the FBI document said.

THE SHADOWY "A" turned up again

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In Washington government files in 1963 long after the Warren Commission completed its investigation of the Kennedy assassination. The files show "A" as having knowledge of the CIA's 1963 contacts with "Amlash," the code name for a high Castro official, about killing Castro with a poison ballpoint pen or a telescopic rifle.

"A" claimed in 1965 that he and Amlash were lifelong friends, the Senate report said.

Some people doubt that Amlash was truly anti-Castro and suspect he was a plant who kept Castro fully informed about the CIA assassination plots.

On Nov. 22, 1963, the day Kennedy was assassinated, Amlash was meeting in Europe with a top CIA official and was told he would be furnished with a rifle and explosives to kill Castro.

The Senate committee stressed in its recent report that it had found no evidence to "justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy."

But the committee also charged that

the FBI and the CIA withheld vital information about "possibilities of conspiracy" from the Warren Commission and that the two agencies were deficient in their own investigations of the Kennedy murder.

LIKE MANY OF its findings, the Senate report left unanswered many questions about the arms-running from Collinsville. But it did quote at length from an Oct. 3, 1963, memo from the FBI's Miami field office concerning episodes that took place that summer.

This memo was not furnished to the Warren commission, the committee said, and "raises additional questions" about the purpose of Oswald's contacts with Carlos Bringer, and anti-Castro Cuban exile in New Orleans who was training paramilitary forces for raids on Cuba.

The committee implied that the FBI wanted to divert the Warren commission from digging too deeply into Oswald's highly suspicious activities before he killed Kennedy.

On Aug. 5, Oswald, who was living in New Orleans, offered his help to Bringer and on Aug. 7 presented his Marine Corps training manual to Bringer's group. But two days later Bringer saw Oswald passing out pro-Castro literature and a fight broke out between the two.

The Senate report said Bringer "believed Oswald was attempting to infiltrate the anti-Castro movement in order to report its activities to pro-Castro forces."

THE ANTI-CASTRO activities prominently included the plans for bombing raids with the Collinsville explosives, the Senate report said.

According to the withheld FBI document, an informant told the agency June 14, 1963, that "B" of Collinsville had "recently arrived in Miami in a Ford station wagon with a load of arms for sale. American adventurers and mercenaries (names deleted) took 'B' around to meet the different Cuban exile leaders in Miami."

The intended raid was thwarted when customs agents seized two Beechcraft aircraft and explosives at an airfield near Miami June 15, 1963.

"A" and an American were detained, but not charged.

On July 31, 1963, FBI agents raided a home near New Orleans and seized the 2,400 pounds of dynamite and 20 bomb casings.

According to the FBI document, the arms were on property owned by the brother of the former operator of a Havana gambling casino. The dynamite "was purchased at Collinsville by 'B' for 'A,' who transported the dynamite to New Orleans in a rented trailer, the FBI said.

WHILE THE planned attacks were halted by the arms seizures, many of the guerrilla assaults in Cuba proceeded, the report said.

In that period, Oswald was in contact with pro-Castro and anti-Castro org mi-

zations in New Orleans.

On Sept. 7, 1963, Castro granted an unexpected and impromptu interview with an Associated Press reporter in Havana and warned that any U.S. leaders aiding in terrorist plans to eliminate Cuban leaders would not be safe.

His statements were later interpreted by American experts as a warning of possible retaliation against any effort to kill him.

Later that month, Oswald went to Mexico City and, according to the Senate report, "visited both the Cuban and the Soviet diplomatic establishments and contacted a vice consul at the latter who was in fact a KGB (secret intelligence) agent."

The Russian diplomat, identified only as Kostikov, was believed by FBI officials at that time to be a member of the KGB section that "carries out assassination and sabotage," the Senate report said.

YET THE FBI "failed to intensify" its investigation of Oswald and "failed to interview him before the assassination despite receiving a note from him

warning the FBI to leave his wife alone" the committee said.

As for "A," the Senate committee said, CIA files contain FBI reports "detailing his involvement with anti-Castro exiles and underworld figures who were operating the guerrilla training camp in New Orleans in July, 1963."

"The FBI clearly made the connection between 'A's' 1963 activities and the fact that in 1965 he was knowledgeable of CIA involvement in plans to assassinate Castro," the report said.

"But there is no evidence that either the FBI or CIA made any investigation of this connection.

"It was not until 1967 that both the Amlash operation and President Kennedy's assassination, including the facts developed in 1965, were reviewed by either agency."

The 1967 review took place only when President Lyndon B. Johnson personally heard about allegations that the Kennedy assassination was in retaliation for CIA plots against Castro.

The CIA then gave Johnson a report that raised the question of a possible connection, the Senate committee said.