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Colby: CIA has no data to dispute JFK finding

William J. Eaton
Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby says the CIA does not know anything to contradict the Warren Commission finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone to murder President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Colby made the comment after Sen. Richard Schweiker (Pa.) urged a new Senate investigation of Kennedy's assassination on the ground that new evidence showed possible CIA and FBI ties to Oswald.

Schweiker's main charge was that the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover joined in a "cover-up" of a threatening letter that Oswald wrote to the FBI in Dallas a few days before Kennedy was slain. The letter was destroyed, Schweiker said, and its existence never was reported to the Warren Commission.

HOWEVER, the chairman and vice chairman of the Senate intelligence committee quickly rebuffed Schweiker's plea for a new investigation.

In a statement issued late Monday, Senators Frank Church (D-Ida.) and John C. Stennis (R-Miss.) said, "We do not think there is sufficient evidence to justify reopening of the Warren Commission's work."

Asked about Schweiker's statements, Colby gazed directly at his questioner and asked: "Do you honestly think the CIA would be engaged in a plot to assassinate its President?"

Former CIA Director Allen Dulles was a member of the Warren Commission, Colby said, and could not provide information on CIA activities to the panel.

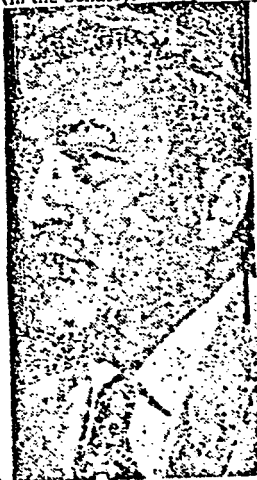
The Rockefeller report, Colby added, backed up the commission's finding that the CIA was not involved with Oswald.

SCHWEIKER said the CIA never told the commission that its officials had discussed assassination of Cuban President Fidel Castro even though reprisal against Kennedy might have been the motive for his slaying.

Schweiker also protested that seven CIA documents were still classified secret and would be concealed for 75 years, along with 123 FBI documents.

"They (the CIA documents) came from a very sensitive source," Colby said. "We do not think it should be revealed." But he added:

"I'm sure we can provide him (Schweiker) with every detail," Colby said. "I don't have any problem about reopening this. That's up to them (in the Senate)."



Sen. Richard Schweiker tells of hopes to reopen the investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. (AP)

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