

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Copy verifies Hoover's memo on JFK killing

By THOMAS B. ROSS
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WASHINGTON — A copy of the "top secret" Federal Bureau of Investigation memo on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the existence of which was questioned by the Central Intelligence Agency, has been obtained by The Chicago Sun-Times.

Sources verified that the copy was identical to the original memo in file in the National Archives except for two security deletions.

The memo, a letter from the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to the Warren Commission, relays information from "a

confidential source" that Cuban Prime minister Fidel Castro knew in advance that Lee Harvey Oswald had threatened to kill Kennedy.

The letter concludes with an assertion by Hoover that the FBI intended to take "no further action" beyond informing the commission. That seemed to suggest that Hoover had decided not to look into the possibility that Kennedy was assassinated in retaliation for a CIA plot to murder Castro.

At the time of the letter — June 17, 1964 — Hoover was aware of the CIA plot, but according to Senate testimony last year, no one on the commission knew of it except the late CIA Director

Allen Dulles.

Senate and House investigators are trying to determine whether a broader inquiry by the commission might have caused it to question its conclusion that Oswald acted alone.

A copy of the Hoover memo was first published by Hugh Aynesworth of the Dallas Times Herald. The Chicago Sun-Times then obtained a verified copy of its own.

CIA Director George Bush said earlier this week: "It's my information that such a memo does not exist."

He suggested that the document would prove nonexistent or a fake after The Chicago Sun-Times obtained

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"The Dallas Times Herald"
Dallas, Texas

Page 1A

Date: 11-19-76

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Kenneth P. Johnson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Dallas

Being Investigated

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a copy, a CIA spokesman was asked to comment. He replied that Bush had responded to a question about whether such a memo was on file in the Justice Department and had not necessarily ruled out its existence elsewhere. The spokesman said Bush had not seen and was unaware of the memo before it was brought to his attention by The Chicago Sun-Times.

The FBI refused to comment.

The memo, written on Justice Department stationery, is marked "TOP SECRET," and bears the identification number 1859. It is addressed to J. Lee Rankin, the commission's general counsel, and signed "Sincerely, J. Edgar

Hoover."

The text is as follows:

"Through a confidential source which has furnished reliable information in the past, we have been advised of some statements made by Fidel Castro, Cuban prime minister, concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

"In connection with these statements of Castro, your attention is called to the speech made by Castro on Nov. 27, 1963, in Havana, Cuba, during which Castro made similar statements concerning this matter.

"The pertinent portions of this speech are set out in the report of Special Agent James J. O'Connor dated May 8,

1964, at Miami, Fla., beginning on page 30.

"According to our source, Castro recently is reported to have said ..."

The first deletion occurs at this point. A spokesman for the Senate Intelligence Committee said the classified portion "contains substantially the same information" as that in a 1967 National Enquirer article which quoted Castro as saying Oswald told the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City he intended to kill Kennedy.

Hoover's letter continued: "The source advised that Castro's speech was based ..."

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★ MEMO

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After the second deletion, the letter concluded: "It will be noted that the information furnished by our source at this time as having come from Castro is consistent with and substantially the same as that which appears in Castro's speech of Nov. 27, 1963, and which is referred to above.

"This additional material is set forth for the committee's information and no further action is contemplated by this bureau concerning it."