

H/PS# 315

Notes/Thoughts on Reading Selections from the Church Committee Report on "Executive Action" Capability.

During the Ford Presidency the disclosure that the CIA had been (was still) involved in a program called "Executive Action" became front page news. This inspired Congressional Action to investigate this revelation. Senator Frank Church, the Democratic senator from Idaho chaired the Committee.

Introduction

Did the White ^{House} authorize "Executive Action" programs. . . . Ex. Action was to put it in unadorned language an assassination capability. . . . Or health altering program for whoever was targeted.

Project ZR/Rifle. . . This was the program in which the CIA searched for the assassin.

Mentioned here was QJ/Win. . . . No indication that QJ/Win was ever activated. Of course not. . . . those records were destroyed or denied to the Committee. QJ/Win was a Belgium and was called upon by the CIA to take out those targeted by the CIA. Best example was Patrice Lamumba of the Congo. I believe it has been established that QJ/Win was his executioner. . . . QJ/Win worked for the CIA on other assignments. He was especially employed in spotting assassins the CIA could employ for other Ex. Action assignments.

Did the White House authorize any of this Ex. Action stuff. Bissell comes up with names of McGeorge Bundy (JFK's Nat'al Security Adviser) and Walt (Whitman) Rostow. According to William Harvey's notes that were never produced.

(If true: who was Mac Bundy. He was former Dean of Harvard University and after leaving the Government he headed up the Ford Foundation.)

Around and around it goes as to whether the White House authorized the establishment of an Ex. Action program.

Finally, Bundy leaves it that the project was discussed but went nowhere. . .

Also that Bundy, JFK's Nat'l Security Adviser. Never discussed this with President Kennedy. That is, as far as he could recall. . . . This Ex. Action issue was just one of so many that crossed Bundy's desk that he could not be certain whether it was bumped up to JFK's desk or not. . . . Of course, as NS Adviser Bundy has faced time with JFK every day

Of course Dulles knew about the program (Question: Did he ever put out a contract on a target???? Of course he did). . . .

Did Dulles' replacement John McCone know about the program. Indication that he was never told. (This is probably true. May want to explain here.) McCone wasn't told (even though he is the designated DCI) why. Because his pay grade wasn't high enough.

Plausible deniability

Finally, Was ZR/Rifle program ever enacted??

Point implied here was that assassination attempts against Castro were already attempted during the Eisenhower Administration. I have to believe that Ike knew and gave his blessings to them.

These attempts included Mafia figures Sam Giancana and Johnnie Rosselli.

Helms quoted as saying that as DDP he did not recall that ZR/Rifle project was directed at Castro . . .

Fades off into QJ/Win and ZR/Rifle. . . . the reality is that QJ/Win was tasked to assassinated Lumumba. . .