

Bundy Denies Any Assassination Plots

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WASHINGTON, April 7 — McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's aide for national security affairs, said today that he had told the Rockefeller Commission that he had "no recollection" of plots to assassinate foreign leaders or of formal discussions of such plans during his White House tenure.

Mr. Bundy, in a brief meeting with reporters after a closed-door session with members of the commission, which is investigating the Central Intelligence Agency, said he could not exclude informal discussion in which White House aides "sat around and said how nice it would be if this or that leader of government did not exist."

This was the only area of his testimony that Mr. Bundy discussed.

There have been published allegations concerning a C.I.A. plot during the Kennedy Administration to have Premier Castro of Cuba killed. But Mr. Bundy, who handled sensitive foreign policy matters for President Kennedy, seemed to challenge the idea that any assassination plot was formally presented to the White House for approval or ever approved.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, the Government filed a brief in a Federal Court case that strongly implied that the Army had traced the route of documents stolen from military intelligence commands in West Germany to member of the press and possibly Senate aides.

The brief was filed in a suit by the American Civil Liberties Union against Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger on behalf of American antiwar groups in West Germany. The original suit, filed last year, attempted to bar the Army from surveilling United States servicemen and civilians in West Germany.

The Army's tactics of watching anti-Vietnam war groups in West Germany came to light

in the summer of 1973 when several news media published reports of military spying, including telephone taps, based upon documents apparently from military intelligence unit files.

At the same time Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., Republican of Connecticut, turned over similar documents from West Germany to the Armed Services Committee.

Judge Given Documents

The Army has placed a packet of documents in the hands of the trial judge, William B. Jones, in Federal District Court here, which its brief claimed contained "a full and complete disclosure of the actions of military intelligence personnel in connection with one aspect of this investigation. The complete reports of the investigative method used and the information received, with no deletions, are included in the submission."

Sources close to the investigation said the material given to Judge Jones would show

Ousted Leader Given Highest C.I.A. Medal

WASHINGTON, April 7 — James Jesus Angleton, once described as the mastermind of an illegal domestic spying operation by the Central Intelligence Agency, received the agency's highest award today.

The Distinguished Intelligence Medal was presented to the ousted counterintelligence chief by the deputy director, Lieut. Gen. Vernon A. Walters at a small, unannounced ceremony. The Director of Central Intelligence, William E. Colby, who forced Mr. Angleton to retire at the end of last year, was out of town.

The citation presented to Mr. Angleton praised him "for long and distinguished service in counterintelligence."

that the Army investigators, presumably using electronic surveillance, had traced a chain of custody of secret documents after they were taken from military files in West Germany. One source said this chain might well include "newsmen, lawyers and others."

The New York Times was among the publications that had had military documents made available to it. Senator Weicker is known to have sent a member of his staff to Germany to investigate allegations of military spying as an outgrowth of the Senate Watergate inquiry.

According to the Army's brief, which was prepared and submitted to the court by the United States Attorney's office here, "in early 1974, Army intelligence personnel in Europe received certain information which appeared to relate to the unauthorized release of these classified documents. This information suggested possible leads which, if pursued, might enable intelligence personnel to ascertain the identity of person or persons responsible for the theft and unauthorized release."

"In fact, these leads were pursued by means of certain intelligence collection methods and procedures, resulting in confirmation of some of the information received earlier," the brief said.

The A.C.L.U. is expected to seek access to the documents now held by the judge. The Army has asked the judge to review the material in secret and to decide whether it is relevant to the case. If he decided to rule it was relevant, the Army brief said, the Secretary of Defense would then decide whether to label the material a matter of national security and attempt to exert his "privilege" to have the material remain sealed.