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JFK Assassination

Watergate Burglar Says Ruby Discussed Plot With Castro

MIAMI (UPI) — Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis said Thursday that Jack Ruby met in Havana with Fidel Castro 10 weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy and discussed "removal of the President" along with arms purchases for Cuba and smuggling of illicit drugs into the United States.

Sturgis said in a telephone interview that he "and other agents" passed that information on to various government agencies early in 1964, before the Warren Commission completed its hearings, but he is uncertain whether the information was ever made available to the Commission.

Sturgis said he had been assigned to investigate possible involvement of Cuban exiles in the Miami area in the Kennedy

assassination. He said neither his investigation nor that of fellow agents turned up any Cuban exile tie with the shooting of Kennedy.

He refused to say for what agency he was working, or who gave him the assignment. Records have indicated that he was working for the CIA at about that time.

He said the investigation did produce evidence that Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and Ruby, who shot Oswald while he was in police custody in

Dallas, "were involved in the same conspiracy, along with other people."

Sturgis declined to identify his source for the information about the Havana meeting. However, he hinted that it might have come from "another rebel officer who was there, too."

Sturgis said Fidel Castro, Raoul Castro, the late Che Guevara, Cuban intelligence chief Ramiro "Barba Roja (red beard)" Valdez "and an Argentine woman were present. She was a KGB (Soviet intelligence) agent. I didn't get her name but I think now I know who she is."

He said Castro had learned that the U.S. government was aware of the plots to assassinate him and "Castro was furious."

He said Ruby had made several trips to Cuba in the months before the assassination and met with officials of the Castro government. "He was trying to make a deal to sell arms to Cuba and to try to make a deal to obtain illicit drugs through Cuba for smuggling into the United States."

"At the meeting with Castro, sale of guns and the drug deal were discussed

along with removal of the President, an attempt on the President's life."

Sturgis also indicated that "intelligence elements" of other Latin American governments may have been involved in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, or at least may have known about the conspiracy in advance.

"Oswald was involved in a conspiracy and Ruby was involved in the same conspiracy, along with other people. Government agencies got a bit of information about this, not only from myself but from other intelligence sources in the United States. They also claimed there was some kind of a tie between Ruby and Oswald," Sturgis said.

He said he was uncertain whether any of the information was ever presented to the Warren Commission.