

Kennedy Doubts Alleged Assassination Policy

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (UPI) — Senator Edward M. Kennedy said today that he was satisfied “to a moral certainty” that neither of his brothers, President John F. Kennedy and Senator Robert F. Kennedy, tolerated a policy of assassination.

But the Massachusetts Democrat said that he had no personal knowledge of United States intelligence activities during the Kennedy Administration, when plots were allegedly mounted against Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba and Rafael Trujillo, the Dominican leader.

Senator Kennedy spoke to reporters after testifying before the Senate Select-Committee on Intelligence, which is investigating a report that a senior official in the Nixon Administration issued, then rescinded, an order for the assassination of Jack Anderson, the columnist, late in 1971 or early in 1972.

No Personal Knowledge

“I didn’t have any personal knowledge of the various intelligence activities during the nineteen-sixties, but I am absolutely satisfied to a moral certainty that neither President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy would have tolerated a policy of assassination,” the Senator said.

Mr. Kennedy said that he based his belief on his brothers’ regard for the “value of life.” He urged that all information about alleged assassination schemes be made public, saying: “Let the chips fall where they may.”

The committee invited Mr. Kennedy to testify, following the example of John Eisenhower, the former Ambassador and White House official, who testified earlier this year that he was certain his father, President Dwight D. Eisenhower,

had never authorized assassination plots.

A committee spokesman said that the group could not ignore a report published yesterday in The Washington Post that Mr. Anderson had been marked for assassination.

The Post quoted reliable sources as having said that E. Howard Hunt Jr., who is serving a jail term for his role in the Watergate burglary, had told “associates” that he had been ordered to kill Mr. Anderson, but that the scheme had been dropped at the last minute.

A committee spokesman said that, while the panel would look into the report of the plot against Mr. Anderson, there was some question about its jurisdiction in the matter, since

no intelligence agency was involved.

Tomorrow, the committee plans to open three days of public hearings into plans by the Nixon Administration to set up a domestic spying apparatus to combat “leaks” of classified materials, some of which had been obtained by Mr. Anderson.

Oswald’s Calls

Before Senator Kennedy met privately with the committee, a source in his office said that he was interested in what the committee had learned about the Central Intelligence Agency’s monitoring of conversations. Lee Harvey Oswald had had with Soviet and Cuban diplomats in Mexico City six weeks before President Kennedy was slain in 1963.