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AM-JFK STAFFS 12-31

URGENT

BY CLAY F. RICHARDS

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE SECRET SERVICE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS HEAVILY PREOCCUPIED WITH POSSIBLE CUBAN AND EVEN CHINESE COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT, ACCORDING TO DOCUMENTS RELEASED WEDNESDAY.

HUNDREDS OF PAGES OF SECRET SERVICE FILES GIVEN UP IN A FLOOD OF INFORMATION REVEAL THAT ASIDE FROM A ROUTINE BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ITS PROBE DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE CUBAN ANGLE.

THE SECRET SERVICE SAID THE FILES REPRESENTED ALL BUT 75 TO 100 DOCUMENTS IT HAD ON THE ASSASSINATION. THOSE WERE EXEMPTED UNDER SECRECY PROVISIONS OF THE LAW. IT DID NOT INCLUDE SECRET SERVICE FILES ALREADY SURRENDERED TO THE ARCHIVES.

THE SECRET SERVICE INVESTIGATION APPARENTLY CONCENTRATED ON THE CUBAN ANGLE BECAUSE OF THREATS AGAINST KENNEDY FROM CUBANS IN MIAMI, WHERE THE PRESIDENT VISITED THE STATE BEFORE HIS MURDER IN DALLAS.

BUT NOWHERE IN THE MATERIAL IS THERE ANY INDICATION THE SECRET SERVICE WAS ABLE TO LINK OSWALD WITH A CUBAN CONSPIRACY. THE INVESTIGATION SEEMED TO REACH THE CASE DEAD END AS THE FBI, THE BARREN COMMISSION AND OTHER PROBES INTO THE MURDER OF THE YOUNG PRESIDENT.

IN ITS INVESTIGATION, THE SECRET SERVICE CHECKED OUT CUBAN LEADS IN NEW ORLEANS, DALLAS, MIAMI, CHICAGO AND MEXICO.

AMONG THE OTHER ITEMS IN THE DOCUMENTS:

--THE FBI MONITORED OSWALD'S ACTIVITIES FOR THREE YEARS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION BUT NEVER TOLD THE SECRET SERVICE ABOUT HIM. FORMER SECRET SERVICE CHIEF JAMES J. HOLLEY RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SLIP-UP IN COMMUNICATIONS WHICH HE SAID "MADE IT CLEAR" CRITERIA

-- THE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ARMED BY CHICGOS AND CUBAN EXEMPLIFIED ... WHO HAVE BEEN PROVISIONALLY JAILED IN CUBA TO PREVENT ANY INVESTIGATIONS. THE DEPLORER'S SOURCE HIMSELF IS FEARFUL THAT HIS ARREST IS IMMINENT.

-- "... THERE APPEARS TO BE NO SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE PLOT BECAUSE AT THIS TIME THE SOURCES ARE TOO CLOSE TO THE AMERICANS."

THE REPORT NAMES A CUBAN AND A MEXICAN-AMERICAN LIVING IN DALLAS AS "INTERMEDIARIES" IN THE PLOT.

"ALTHOUGH THIS SOURCE CANNOT AT THIS MATURE MOMENT FOR THE RELIABILITY OR VERACITY OF THE INFORMATION, STEPS HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO DEVELOP THE INFORMATION FURTHER AND IDENTIFY THE ORIGINAL SOURCE," THE REPORT ENDS. THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO THE MATTER ELSEWHERE IN THE DOCUMENTS.

THERE ALSO WAS A LETTER REPORT OF PREPARATIONS LEADING UP TO KENNEDY'S VISIT TO FLORIDA NOV. 18, 1963 -- THE WEEK BEFORE DALLAS.

THE REPORT REVIEWED SPECIAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY THE SECRET SERVICE BECAUSE OF THREATS BELIEVED TO HAVE COME FROM THE CUBAN COMMUNITY IN MIAMI.

A POSTCARD RECEIVED BY MIAMI POLICE AND POSTDATED NOV. 16, SAID "THE CUBAN COMMANDOS HAVE THE BOMBS READY FOR KILLING JFK."

IN RECENTLY RELEASED FBI DOCUMENTS ON THE ASSASSINATION, J. EDGAR HOOVER Ponders POSSIBLE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT AND MENTIONS SEVERAL "LETTERS" FROM THE FLORIDA CUBAN COMMUNITY THREATENING KENNEDY -- THOUGH NONE WERE FOUND IN THAT FILE.

-- THE SECRET SERVICE PARTICULARLY WAS INTERESTED IN A SPEECH MADE BY FIDEL CASTRO SEPT. 9, 1963 -- TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION. CASTRO WARNED, "UNITED STATES LEADERS WOULD BE IN DANGER IF THEY HELPED IN ANY ATTEMPT TO DO AWAY WITH LEADERS OF CUBA."

... ONLY IN THE PAST YEAR HAS IT BEEN REVEALED THAT THE CIA WAS INVOLVED IN AN ATTEMPT BY CUBANS TO ASSASSINATE CASTRO -- LEADING TO SPECULATION CASTRO PLAYED A ROLE IN THE KENNEDY MURDER.

BUT WHEN THE SECRET SERVICE TRIED TO LINK THE CASTRO SPEECH TO THE ASSASSINATION, THEY FOUND OUT ONE CONNECTION, A REPORT OF THE SPEECH

WAS CARRIED IN NEW ORLEANS NEWSPAPERS AT THE TIME OSWALD LIVED THERE AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE.

IN FACT, OSWALD'S WORK ON THE FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE WAS THE ONLY LINK TO CUBA SUBSTANTIATED IN THE SECRET SERVICE'S ENTIRE INVESTIGATION OF THE CUBA ANGEL.

ANOTHER SECRET SERVICE MEMO ON NOV. 23, A WEEK AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, SAID IF THERE WAS A CUBAN CONSPIRACY, INFORMATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED "THAT THE PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT ANY ACTION ON THE PART OF FIDEL CASTRO UNDOUBTEDLY WAS QUINTEZ PINO MACHADO, A CUBAN FEDERALIST USED BY CASTRO TO CARRY OUT ANY CASTRO ACTION."

THIS INFORMATION WAS GAINED FROM A SOURCE IDENTIFIED AS "S-11-48" WHO SAID MACHADO WAS A FOREIGN CUBAN DELEGATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THEN CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA -- AND AN EXPERT ON BOMBS AND EXPLOSIVES.

THE INFORMANT SAID MACHADO ONCE BRAGGED HE HAD ATTEMPTED TO ASSASSINATE DR. ENRIQUE HEURTAS, IDENTIFIED LATER BY THE SECRET SERVICE AS AN INVITED GUEST AT A DINNER FOR KENNEDY IN MIAMI THE WEEK BEFORE THE PRESIDENT WAS KILLED.

THE SAN ANTONIO SECRET SERVICE OFFICE CHECKED IN WITH A REPORT THAT A MEXICO CITY TELEPHONE OPERATOR HAD LISTENED IN ON A CALL PLACED TO MIAMI THE NIGHT AFTER THE ASSASSINATION.

THE MEXICAN CALLER STATED: "THE CASTRO PLAN IS BEING CARRIED OUT. SOMEBODY IS NEXT. SOON THE BOMBS WILL BEGIN TO RAIN AND THEY WON'T KNOW FROM WHERE."

WHILE THE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES WERE LISTED, THERE WAS NO INDICATION IN THE FILE WHAT WAS FOUND IN THE SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION.

AND THREE DAYS AFTER THE MURDER, THE SECRET SERVICE IN CHICAGO CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO A MAN WHO TOLD THEM HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A GROUP OF "CHICAGO CUBANS WHO MAY BE INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION ... AND IS ENDEAVORING TO PURCHASE A VARIETY OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES."

NOTHING CAME OF THAT LEAD.

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AP-RETRACED 10-01

BY GREGORY CONDON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- JOHN F. KENNEDY "BELIEVED HE BELONGED TO THE PEOPLE" AND DISCOURAGED STATE SERVICE AGENTS FROM STOPPING PERSONS WHO RAN TOWARD HIS LIMOUSINE DURING HIS CAMPAIGN, A TOP AGENT SAID TWO WEEKS AFTER KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED.

SPECIAL AGENT CHESTER WENDT, FORMER CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION SAID...

HE SAID THAT KENNEDY SAID AGENTS WERE TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM DURING A PERIOD OF HIS CAMPAIGN IN THE TWO YEARS BEFORE HE WAS SHOT TO DEATH WHILE DRIVING THROUGH DALLAS IN AN OPEN CAR.

WENDT DESCRIBED KENNEDY'S BEHAVIOR IN A LETTER TO HIS BOSS, FIELD-SERVICE SERVICE CHIEF JAMES J. DOLLEY, OBTAINED BY UPI UNDER A PROVISION OF INFORMATION ACT PROVISIONS.

HIS LETTER OF DEC. 9, 1963, SAID THAT IN APRIL, 1963, IN MEXICO CITY "AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAD THE APPEARANCE OF A TYPICAL MEXICAN WOUNDED HIS WAY OFF INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET DURING THE WELCOMING MOTORCADE AND ATTEMPTED TO STOP THE PRESIDENT'S CAR."

"WHEN HE REALIZED HIS CAR WOULD NOT STOP, HE CAME AROUND THE CORNER ON THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE AND I HIT HIM AND KICKED HIM DOWN," WENDT SAID. "THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY TOLD ME I SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS."

WENDT SAID THE MAN WAS ARRESTED AND IT WAS DISCOVERED HE WAS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO HAD OVERTAKEN HIS VISA AND HAD A POLICE RECORD IN THE UNITED STATES.

HE SAID THAT IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW MADE AVAILABLE IN JUNE, 1963, "WENDT SAID THAT AGENTS WERE ADVISED THAT AGENTS SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM THE POLICE LINES, WHICH THE PRESIDENT WOULD APPROXIMATELY BE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET WAITING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CAR TO REACH THEM."

HE SAID "PRACTICALLY EVERY FIELD AGENT JERRED FROM THE BUREAU...

BOARD OF A FOLLOW-UP CAR AND PUSHED THE FRONTSEATERS AWAY FROM THE CAR. THE PRESIDENT WOULD NEVER TELL ME TO TELL THE AGENTS OR WOULD ATTEMPT TO TELL THE AGENTS THEMSELVES NOT TO DO THIS."

"HIS REASON WAS THAT THESE PEOPLE ONLY WANTED TO SHAKE HIS HAND AND GO ON AND HE WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

WHEAT SAID THAT AFTER HE WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE WHITE HOUSE DETAIL IN 1961, KENNEDY TOLD HIM "HE DID NOT WANT AGENTS HIDING ON THE BACK OF HIS CAR."

"HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO BE SEEN FOR THIS," WHEAT SAID. "THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY BELIEVED HE BELONGED TO THE PEOPLE, SO HE WANTED TO SEE THE PEOPLE AND HE WANTED THE PEOPLE TO SEE HIM."

WHEAT SAID THAT AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY CHARLES G. DONNELLY SAID THAT "POLITICS AND PROTECTION GO TOGETHER AND THAT IN ORDER TO REACH A HAPPY MEDIUM, BOTH MUST EXIST."

IN A MARCH 27 REPORT LATER, WHEAT SUGGESTED THAT A PRESIDENT AGENT, "WITHOUT QUESTION, THE AGENT AND TYPE OF PROTECTION GOVERN HIM."

HE SAID THAT WHILE "THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE" MIGHT COME IN HAND FOR A PRESIDENT TO GET A MESSAGE, ESPECIALLY AND THERE SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE. "IT IS USUALLY TRUE THAT AN USUALLY UNBALANCED PERSON IN THE HEAVY CROWD CIRCLE, ON THE SPIN OF THE MOMENT, WILL A SHOT IN GUN AND KILL OR INFLUENCE A PRESIDENT."

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ALBANY 12-21

BY GREGORY GORDON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- ALTHOUGH THE FBI MONITORED LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S ACTIVITIES FOR THREE YEARS BEFORE HE WAS KILLED, JOHN F. KENNEDY, JR. NEVER GAVE OSWALD'S NAME TO THE SECRET SERVICE, ACCORDING TO DOCUMENTS RELEASED WEDNESDAY.

FIVE WEEKS AFTER KENNEDY WAS MURDERED IN DALLAS ON NOV. 22, 1963, THEN-CHIEF SERVICE OFFICER JAMES J. ROWLEY RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SLIP-UP IN COORDINATING WHAT MIGHT HAVE ENABLED OSWALD TO KILL THE PRESIDENT.

ROWLEY'S NEWS WAS AMONG HUNDREDS OF DOCUMENTS OBTAINED BY UPI IN RESPONSE TO A SUIT FILED WITH THE SECRET SERVICE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

"THE FACT THAT THE NAME OF LEE H. OSWALD WAS NOT FURNISHED TO THE PROTECTIVE RESEARCH SECTION (OF THE SECRET SERVICE) PRIOR TO THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION MADE IT CLEAR THAT (THE) CRITERIA EMPLOYED RE-EXAMINATION," ROWLEY WROTE IN A MEMO TO THE SENATE COMMISSION.

HE SAID THE SECRET SERVICE WAS RE-EXAMINING ITS LEADON PROCEDURES WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND THE CRITERIA EMPLOYED BY THE SECRET SERVICE IN IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT BE DANGEROUS TO THE PRESIDENT.

A SECRET SERVICE MEMO THREE DAYS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION STATED THAT OSWALD'S NAME WAS NOT THAT OF A. J. WOODS, HIS KNOWN ALIAS, APPEARED ANYWHERE IN SECRET SERVICE FILES -- INCLUDING THE LISTS OF PERSONS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS TO THE PRESIDENT.

THE RELEASED PART OF THE DOCUMENTS RELEASED EARLIER THIS WEEK INDICATED THAT THE FBI, AND APPARENTLY THE CIA, KEPT CLOSE TRACK OF OSWALD'S MOVEMENTS FROM THE TIME HE APPARENTLY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1959, TO HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1962, AND UP TO A POINT BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION.

SECRET SERVICE MEMORANDA INDICATED THAT AFTER THE ASSASSINATION,

THE AGENCY DISCOVERED SOME POSSIBLE THREATS OR LACK OF SECURITY IN PROTECTIVE SERVICES AT DALLAS AND RE-EVALUATED THE MANNER IN WHICH A PRESIDENT IS GUARDED, AT ONE POINT, THEY DISCUSSED WITH WASHINGTON.

IN THE MEAN, DOWLEY EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE AGENCIES -- THE NEED FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH OTHER AGENCIES, AND THE PROBLEM OF IDENTIFYING HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS.

HE SAID IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL THREATS TO THE PRESIDENT WAS IMPRACTICAL UNLESS HE CAN IDENTIFY -- AND ALL OF OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES CAN AGREE ON -- THE TYPES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO CONSTITUTE A RISK TO THE PRESIDENT.

DOWLEY SAID LISTING THE NAMES OF ALL 2 MILLION PERSONS WHO ENTER ARE GENERALLY ALL OF NUMBERS OR SUPERVISIVE STAMPS "WOULD EXHAUST THE COMBINED CAPABILITIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES."

"ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE AGENCIES AGREE TO RESTRICTIVE THAT A FINDER LIKE MR. DONALD WERE EXCLUDED, THE UTILITY OF THE FILES WOULD BE QUESTIONABLE."

DOWLEY SAID THAT "THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION, THE SERVICE HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLY MORE MATERIAL FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAN THEREFORE."

DOWLEY'S AGENCIES SAID THE SERVICE PLANNED TO IMPROVE WITH NEW PROTECTIVE TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING THROUGH SEARCHES OF BUILDINGS ALONG PERIPHERAL PARKS ROUTES.

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