

F.B.I. Data Show Castro Wary on Kennedy Death

Agents Say Cuban Doubted Oswald's Role

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WASHINGTON, March 30 — The Federal Bureau of Investigation learned from an agent posing as an American Communist leader that Fidel Castro conducted his own investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy a year after it happened, according to documents made public today.

The documents detail how the bureau handled this agent and one other posing as an American Communist official in the cold war.

One document shows that one of these agents said that Mr. Castro, the Cuban leader, told him at a meeting in 1964 that he tried to duplicate the conditions under which Kennedy was assassinated as he rode in a motorcade in downtown Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The document said Mr. Castro concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, who was arrested in the

A memo to Hoover tells of Castro's curiosity about the assassination.

shooting and fatally wounded two days later, could not have acted alone.

According to the memorandum from the head of the F.B.I. office in New York to J. Edgar Hoover, then Director of the bureau, Mr. Castro apparently conducted an elaborate experiment with rifles out of great curiosity about the event. Government officials said that would have required Mr. Castro to have recreated the conditions and sight lines that existed in Dealey Plaza in Dallas to test his theories.

The documents were made public today by the National Archives under a 1992 law that provided for the gradual disclosure of all Government files on the Kennedy assassination. The law requires a Government-wide search of all files to discover any documents that may relate to the assassination.

The 1964 memorandum about the conversation with Mr. Castro appears to cast doubt on those assassi-

nation theorists who have speculated that the Cuban leader had a hand in the killing.

The release today was of more than 10,000 pages that had been reviewed by the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978 and 1979.

More than 100 of these pages provide details of the F.B.I.'s Operation Solo, which consisted of using the two undercover agents who worked as senior officials in the Communist Party, U.S.A. The identities of the agents were first disclosed by David J. Garrow in his Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Bearing the Cross," published by Morrow in 1986.

The two agents are identified only by code numbers in the documents, but Mr. Garrow said the two were Morris and Jack Childs, brothers from Chicago who flourished in the highest circles of the American Communist Party.

Mr. Garrow said the Childs brothers, both now dead, were recruited by the bureau in the early 1950's. A senior Government official said the Childs brothers were a treasure trove of information about the Soviet Union.

The informer identified as NY 694-S, who Mr. Garrow said was Jack Childs, recounted a meeting with Mr. Castro, an interpreter and another official of the American Communist Party when a discussion of the Kennedy assassination ensued.

According to this account, Mr. Castro said Oswald could not have "done this job alone and could not have fired the rifle three times in succession and hit the target with that telescopic arrangement, but needed the help of at least two other men."

The Warren Commission, which was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to investigate the assassination, concluded in a report released in 1964 that Oswald was solely responsible for the murder of Kennedy and did, indeed, fire all three shots at the President's motorcade.

The agent said Mr. Castro feared that a visit by Oswald to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico shortly before the shooting was an attempt to link Cuba to the assassination. The agent also said Mr. Castro showed no elation in discussing Kennedy's death.