

Ex-Spy Says She Drove To Dallas With Oswald & Kennedy 'Assassin Squad'

By PAUL MESKIL

A former spy says that she accompanied Lee Harvey Oswald and an "assassin squad" to Dallas a few days before President Kennedy was murdered there Nov. 22, 1963. The House Assassinations Committee is investigating her story.

Marita Lorenz, former undercover operative for the CIA and FBI, told The News that her companions on the car trip from Miami to Dallas were Oswald, CIA contract agent Frank Sturgis, Cuban exile leaders Orlando Bosch and Pedro Diaz Lanz, and two Cuban brothers whose names she does not know.

She said they were all members of Operation 40, a secret guerrilla group originally formed by the CIA in 1960 in preparation for the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Statements she made to The News and to a federal agent were reported to Robert Blakey, chief counsel of the Assassinations Committee. He has assigned one of his top investigators to interview her.

Ms. Lorenz described Operation 40 as an "assassination squad" consisting of about 30 anti-Castro Cubans and their American advisers. She claimed the group conspired to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and President Kennedy, whom it blamed for the Bay of Pigs fiasco.

Admitted Taking Part

Sturgis admitted in an interview two years ago that he took part in Operation 40. "There are reports that Operation 40 had an assassination squad," he said. "I'm not saying that personally . . . (but) they would kill if they had to."

Except for Oswald, who was accused of murdering Kennedy, none of the men named by Ms. Lorenz has been linked to the President's death.

Ms. Lorenz said she first met Oswald, whom she knew only as "Ozzie," when he called at an Operation 40 "safe house" in Miami's Little Havana section



Maritza Lorenz,
Former CIA agent

in the summer or early fall of 1963. She said she asked Sturgis who the stranger was and he replied: "He's OK. He's one of us."

She said Oswald later visited an Operation 40 training camp in the Florida Everglades. The next time she saw him, Ms. Lorenz said, was at a midnight meeting in the Miami home of Orlando Bosch, who is now in a Venezuelan prison on murder charges in connection with the explosion and crash of a

She Tells of 'Assassin Squad'

(Continued from page 5)

Cuban jetliner that killed 73 persons last year.

Ms. Lorenz claimed that this meeting was attended by Sturgis, Oswald, Bosch and Diaz Lanz, former chief of the Cuban Air Force. She said the men spread Dallas street maps on a table and studied them.

"I thought they were planning to raid an arsenal or some other place where weapons were stashed," she said. "I wasn't too interested. There were so many car trips here and there around the country that one more trip didn't mean much to me."

She said they left for Dallas in two cars soon after the meeting. They took turns driving, she said, and the 1,300-mile trip took about two days. She added that they carried weapons — "rifles and scopes" — in the cars.

When they reached Dallas, she said, they all checked into a motel. The Cubans didn't want a woman on the job. Ms. Lorenz continued, "so I flew back to Miami the next day."

"And two days later I was on a plane to New York when the co-pilot announced that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas," she said.

Informed of her story, Sturgis told *The News* yesterday: "To the best of my knowledge, I never met Oswald."

He said he has known Bosch and

Diaz Lanz for many years and "I believe she (Ms. Lorenz) may have been at my house one time when they were there." Sturgis also said he had been in Dallas several times before the assassination, but he insisted that he went there alone and was not there around at the time Kennedy was killed. On Nov. 22, he said, "I was home in Miami with my family and I watched the whole thing on TV."

Sturgis said he had been questioned already about the assassination by the Senate Watergate Committee, the Senate Intelligence Committee, the House Assassination Committee and by former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller's commission that investigated the CIA.

"I told them all that I had nothing to do with a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, and I volunteered to take lie-detector tests," Sturgis said.

He added that he had given the committees evidence that there was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy and that "Castro, the Russians and certain Americans" were behind it.

Sturgis reportedly recruited Ms. Lorenz for the CIA in 1959 while she was living with Castro in Havana. She later fled Cuba but returned on two secret missions. The first was to steal papers from Castro's suite in the Havana Hilton; the second mission was to kill him with a poison capsule, but it dissolved while concealed in a jar of cold cream.