

Ex-C.I.A. Official Denies Report Tying Agency to Assassinations

WASHINGTON, March 1 (AP) — A former official of the Central Intelligence Agency who worked on an internal C.I.A. investigation denies a CBS News report that the inquiry uncovered evidence of agency involvement in the assassination of foreign officials.

Daniel Schorr, CBS Washington correspondent, said last night that James R. Schlesinger, former Director of Central Intelligence, uncovered the assassinations when he asked agency employees in May, 1973, to report to him any questionable C.I.A. activities they knew about.

However, a Schlesinger aide who worked with him on that post-Watergate investigation of possible wrongdoing, by the agency told The Associated press, "We never had any indication whatsoever of C.I.A. involvement in assassination." The aide asked not to be identified.

Four other former top officials of the agency also categorically denied any C.I.A. involvement in the assassination of foreign leaders. But two of the former officials acknowledged that low-level personnel of the agency had talked of assassinating Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba and the Domi-

nican Republic dictator, Rafael Trujillo, who was slain in 1961.

They said, however, that this talk had never been approved or translated into action by the agency's policy makers.

Mr. Schorr said that at least three assassinations reportedly took place in the nineteen-sixties or late nineteen-fifties. He said that President Ford reportedly had told associates that if current investigations of the C.I.A. "go too far" they could uncover involvement by the agency in assassinations.

The President reportedly said that if they were publicly disclosed, "this would embarrass the Government and damage relations with at least one foreign country," Mr. Schorr said.

None Carried Out

One former agency official said of the report, "Some of the eager beavers down the line talked about these things, but none was ever carried out."

"I heard a lot of loose talk," about killing Castro, another former C.I.A. man said, but never by a person in a position of authority.

"This is dream department stuff," a third ex-C.I.A. official said. "There's no profit in this."

However, this official acknowledged that the agency was aware of plans to assassinate President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam in 1963 and the agency's position was, "Let's just stand back and let it happen."

An official C.I.A. spokesman refused all comment on the report. And a White House spokesman said, "We have nothing to say about the report."