

Rockefeller Commission -leaks; CIA-assassinations; propaganda and the media
and public mind fixing HW 5/24/75

Coinciding with Colby's return appearance before the Church committee where his expected testimony was known within the administration (WxPost "CIA Prober Hints Curb on Killings," 5/24/75, filed CIA- assassinations is the careful and angled leak to AP (WxPost 5/24/75, "'Elimination' of Castro Held Discussed in '62").

There has been a longstanding campaign from the time investigation of the CIA was certain to pin a rap on the Kennedy administration for its misdeed, especially with regard to assassinations and domestic intelligence (where it was blamed on Johnson, Kennedy's choice as vice president).

The "Elimination" of Castro story (filed Castro-Plots Against) is restricted to the Kennedy years and Kennedy figures.

However, it is undisputed that this began with the Eisenhower administration, as did all anti-Castro operations from assassinations to invasions.

There have been apparently dependable and unrefuted reports of plans to kill Castro under the Nixon administration, as recently as this week.

Whoever leaked this story to the AP was careful to limit the plotting to the Kennedys, JFK and RFK.

It can't be accidental.

From the AP story the possible leakers seem to be limited to the CIA or the Rockefeller Commission.

With the current interest in the Warren Commission, the personal interests in this kind of what amounts to propaganda by Ford and Belin are pretty obvious. It seems impossible from the AP story that the source could have been anyone other than someone inside the Ford administration.

It also fits the pattern of studied leaking of recent days that so perfectly matches the M.O. of and during the Warren Commission. They have the effect and fairly obviously the intent of preparing and fixing the public and media mind for coming disclosures, about the CIA, the Warren Commission and other matters of importance to Ford.

'Elimination' of Castro Held Discussed in '62

Post 5/24/75

Associated Press

The Rockefeller commission has obtained minutes of a 1962 meeting showing that high Kennedy administration officials discussed the possible assassination of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, according to sources.

One source who has seen the minutes said the subject was immediately dismissed. But two sources say a memo was written two days later by an assistant to then-Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara directing the Central Intelligence Agency to develop contingency plans for the possible assassination of the Cuban leader.

That memo was withdrawn immediately, one source said. But he said subsequent U.S.-sponsored plots were made against Castro's life.

The memo, which dealt with a variety of subjects, does not use the word "assassination," according to a source who had seen it, relying instead on more general terms such as "elimination."

But the source said the memo clearly provided authority for drawing up contingency plans for an assassination.

The sources, who declined to be identified, said minutes of the Aug. 10, 1962, meeting show it was attended by McNamara, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, John A. McCone, CIA director, and McGeorge

Bundy, President Kennedy's adviser for national security affairs.

The memo was written by McNamara assistant Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale.

Reached by phone, McNamara and Lansdale said they had no recollection of the memo or the meeting.

The minutes describe a meeting of a special group known as Operation Mongoose, which approved all CIA covert activities against the Castro regime, the source said. A fifth member, then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, was absent, according to the sources.

The minutes do not make clear whether a specific plan was discussed or whether approval or disapproval for a plot against Castro was given.