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AM-JFK 2TAKES 12-21

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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 UPI UNDER A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SHOW THAT ASIDE FROM A ROUTINE BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, ITS PROBE DEALT ALMOST ENTIRELY 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 SERVICES 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 WEEK 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 SAME DEAD END AS THE FBI, THE WARREN 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. ROWLEY RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SLIP-UP IN COMMUNICATIONS WHICH HE SAID "MADE IT CLEAR" CRITERIA NEEDED TO BE RE-EVALUATED FOR IDENTIFYING PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE DANGEROUS TO THE PRESIDENT.

--THE HEAD OF THE SECRET SERVICE'S WHITE HOUSE DETAIL, GERALD A. BEHN, SAID IN A MEMO AFTER THE ASSASSINATION THAT ON AT LEAST TWO MOTORCADES, KENNEDY HAD DISCOURAGED AGENTS WHO TRIED TO BLOCK PEOPLE FROM APPROACHING HIS LIMOUSINE.

"THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY BELIEVED HE BELONGED TO THE PEOPLE," BEHN WROTE.

--SECRET SERVICE MEMORANDA INDICATED ITS OFFICIALS DISCOVERED SOME POSSIBLE ERRORS OR INDECRETIONS IN PROTECTING KENNEDY AT DALLAS, AND RE-EVALUATED THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE GUARDED. THEY SUGGESTED THEY NEEDED MORE MANPOWER.

BUT PERHAPS THE MOST INTRIGUING DOCUMENT WAS FROM THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE MIAMI OFFICE, DETAILING AN "ALLEGED CHICOM-CASTRO PLOT." CHICOM IS SHORTHAND FOR CHINESE COMMUNISTS.

"THIS OFFICE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM A WESTERN DIPLOMAT ON 6 DECEMBER 1963 WHICH ALLEGES THAT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS THE RESULT OF A PLOT PREPARED AND EXECUTED JOINTLY BY THE CHICOMS AND FIDEL CASTRO THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES," THE REPORT BEGINS.

THE DIPLOMAT IS NOT NAMED IN THE REPORT. THE AGENT SAYS THE DIPLOMAT RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION THROUGH A SOURCE DESCRIBED AS "VERY GOOD." MORE

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BUT WHEN THE SECRET SERVICE TRIED TO LINK THE CASTRO SPEECH TO THE ASSASSINATION, THEY FOUND BUT 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 ANGLE.

ANOTHER SECRET SERVICE MEMO ON NOV. 29, 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 QUINTEN PING MACHADO, A CUBAN TERRORIST USED BY CASTRO TO CARRY OUT ANY CASTRO ACTION."

THIS INFORMATION WAS GAINED FROM A SOURCE IDENTIFIED AS "3-11-63" WHO SAID MACHADO WAS A FORMER 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. BOBBY 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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very good.

THE REPORT LISTED THESE "BASIC INGREDIENTS" OF THE ALLEGATION:

--- "ALLEGEDLY FIDEL CASTRO IS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT THE CURRENT SCENARIOS TAKING PLACE INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND THE POSSIBLE FINDING THAT MAY ENSUE.

--- "THE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ARRANGED BY RUSSIAN AND CUBAN SYMPATHIZERS ... WHO HAVE BEEN PROVISIONALLY JAILED HERE TO PREVENT ANY INDISCRETIONS. THE DIPLOMAT'S SOURCE HIMSELF BELIEVES THAT HIS ARREST IS IMMINENT.

... THERE APPEARS TO BE NO SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE PLOT AT THIS TIME THE SOVIETS 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 OFFICE CANNOT AT THIS JUNCTURE VOUCH 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 ANYWHERE IN THE DOCUMENTS.

THE REPORT HAD A LENGTHY REPORT ON 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 CREST SERVICE BECAUSE OF THREATS BELIEVED TO HAVE COME FROM THE CUBAN COMMUNITY IN MIAMI.

A POSTCARD RECEIVED BY MIAMI POLICE AND POSTMARKED NOV. 16, SAID

THE CUBAN COMMANDOS HAVE THE BOMBS READY FOR KILLING JFK."

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

THE SECRET SERVICE PARTICULARLY WAS INTERESTED IN A SPEECH MADE BY CASTRO SEPT. 9, 1963 -- TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION. CASTRO WARNED, "UNITED STATES LEADERS WOULD BE IN DANGER IF THEY HELD 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 REVELATION CASTRO PLAYED A ROLE IN THE KENNEDY MURDER.