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Mr Harold Weisberg,
Route 8,
Frederick, Md - 21701

Dear Mr Weisberg: Perhaps it is a bit early to celebrate, but a syndicated article published locally this morning in our local press, credited to William Greider and George Lardner, Jr., of the Washington Post Service, indicates the attempted government "cover up" of basic evidence related to the Kennedy assassination, is about to blow wide open - undoubtedly the news sensation of the century.

I presume you will already have known of this development before I, and full credit must go to you for your patient efforts over the past years to dig out and piece together the material evidence which now seems to have torn the "Oswald Theory" of the Kennedy assassination into shreds.

This article, for the first time to my knowledge, establishes a close relationship of CIA to planned political assassinations abroad, even though direct participation in the assassinations themselves is still denied. Four matters in this article I here summarize for the benefit of others to whom copies of this letter are being sent:

1. "A former Johnson aide, Leo Janos, in a 1973 article in Atlantic Monthly magazine, said Johnson once declared that after he took office in 1964, he discovered that 'we had been operating a damned Murder Incorporated in the Caribbean.'" "Murder, Inc." was of course the CIA !

2. A high level CIA official has stated in a "not-for-attribution" interview that "the CIA never assassinated anybody" but further stated he would not make "a flat statement that we never had anything to do with any such thing. There were some things that were a little close to the edge."

3. Columnist Jack Anderson reported in 1971 that he had established that the CIA sponsored six assassination attempts in Cuba, the last in the spring of 1963. (President Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963).

4. The CIA's "case officer" allegedly was "a top Mafia figure", John Roselli, recruited to train the assassination teams, and the teams were recruited from among the exiled Cuban colonies in Miami, Florida. G Gordon Liddy of Watergate fame reportedly was the "favorite guy" of John Roselli, according to Leslie Scherr, attorney for Roselli.

It seems that all the long concealed aspects of the Kennedy assassination are beginning to come into focus, with evidence the CIA functioned directly as collaborator and sponsor of the CIA trained teams of hired assassins, and acted to erase or obscure evidence which might have led to early identification of the CIA's relationship to the assassination conspiracy. This, of course, is exactly what the evidence indicates in the Kennedy assassination, i.e., the planning, training and arming of the assassination team, and planning details of the assassins' escape by providing "fall guys" to make "heroes" of collaborating gendarmes of the Dallas Police Department.

This too might explain the puzzling indications that Lee Harvey Oswald was in fact an FBI or CIA agent who might have been planted to be the "fall guy", or who had stumbled onto clues of the assassination conspiracy and had to be eliminated before he could testify. The indicated prior friendship of Oswald with Officer Tippit would have required Tippit's elimination also - not by Oswald according to eyewitnesses - but by co-operating personnel of the Dallas Police Department.

At least all this is more logical than the "Oswald Theory" of the Warren Commission Report !

Sincerely,

John H Latta, C.P.A. (Ret.)

CIA reportedly fears U.S. may find activity in Cuba assassination try

By WILLIAM GREIDER and GEORGE LARDNER JR.

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency is worried that current investigations may track the agency's alleged involvement in three assassination plots aimed at foreign leaders — Fidel Castro in Cuba, Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic and Patrice Lumumba in the Congo, a source said.

The CIA, which refused to comment on this report, has repeatedly denied that it ever had a policy of directing the assassination of foreign leaders or attempts on their lives.

The agency maintains that position, according to the government source, but it has acknowledged privately that in two episodes — Cuba and the Dominican Republic — attempts may have been carried forward by people in contact with CIA officers.

IN THE CONGO, according to the source, the agency reportedly acknowledged that an assassination of the left-oriented leader Lumumba was discussed in some agency circles, but no action was taken. Lumumba was killed in 1961 by others not connected with the CIA, the source said.

Trujillo, the Dominican dictator for 31 years and an ally of the United States, was shot by assassins in May 1961. Castro and his supporters claim to have squelched several assassination plots against him in the early 1960s. They blamed the plots on the CIA.

Lumumba, the deposed premier of the newly independent Congo, died mysteriously in February 1961, and the secessionist Katanga government that opposed him gave cash rewards to the tribesmen whom it credited with the killing.

LAST WEEKEND the question of CIA involvement in assassination surfaced in a news report by CBS reporter Daniel Schorr, who said CIA Director William Colby briefed President Ford on the subject last December when Colby was reporting to the President on the CIA's domestic surviellance activities, which are now the subject of three investigators.

In theory, the assassination issue could become a subject before the presidential commission investigating CIA domestic activities if investigators established that nonagency people were recruited and equipped in the United States to commit murder in another country.

Conceivably, that would be construed as a "domestic conspiracy" and thus fall within the scope of the investigating commission chaired by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller.

GOVERNMENT officials are concerned, the source said, that public airing of these episodes could complicate foreign relations, particularly with Cuba.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger recently suggested that the United States should strive to reopen relations with Cuba, target of a U.S. embargo since 1961 because of its affiliation with Moscow.

Rumors and published allegations of CIA involvement in political assassinations have circulated for many years, always denied by the agency but sometimes supported by fragments of evidence, never conclusively substantiated or refuted.

One who apparently believed the stories was the late President Lyndon Johnson. A former Johnson aide, Leo Janos, in a 1973 article in Atlantic Monthly magazine, said Johnson once declared that after he took office in 1964, he discovered that "we had been operating a damned Murder Incorporated in the Caribbean."

A HIGH-LEVEL CIA official, when asked about assassination several weeks ago in a not-for-attribution interview, gave an ambiguous reply.

He said it was basically correct that the CIA never assassinated anybody, but he wanted to be careful how he phrased his statement.

"I'd rather not talk about it without doing my homework rather carefully," the official said. "(That's) basically right, fundamentally . . . right, but I don't want to make a flat statement that we never had anything to do with any such thing. There were some things that were little close to the edge."

SEN. FRANK CHURCH, D-Idaho, chairman of the Senate Select Committee investigating the CIA, heard Colby's oral briefing on assassinations, and President Ford "indicated that when the time came, this would be a matter he would be willing to discuss with me and Sen. Tower."

One of the many ambiguities surrounding the subject is the question of whether

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the CIA could be held responsible if it never officially directed a killing, but trained, equipped and encouraged foreign agents who pursued an assassination attempt on their own.

It is well known, that the CIA sent Cuban emigres back into Castro's Cuba during the early 1960's, but the agency insists that none of them was sent there to kill the Cuban premier.

ONE FORMER CIA official, who served in a key post supervising Carribean activities, suggested that the talk of "assassination teams" may be nothing more than the emotional bravado of the Cuban exiles, who often boasted that they could topple the Castro government.

On the other hand, columnist Jack Anderson reported in 1971 that he had established that the CIA sponsored six assassination attempts in Cuba, the last in the spring of 1963.

The teams were recruited from among Cubans in Miami by John Roselli, allegedly "a top Mafia figure" whom the CIA had recruited to direct the murder missions, according to Anderson.

Roselli could not be reached for comment, but his lawyer, Leslie Scherr, said, "Johnny won't talk to you about Cuba under any circumstances. He won't even talk to me about it. His favorite guy is G. Gordon Liddy. Johnny says he knows how to keep his mouth shut."

HOWEVER, A former CIA operative named Bradley Ayers, a former Army captain who helped train CIA agents in tropic survival, said Wednesday he discovered by accident that at least one group, a team of marksmen trained in the Miami area in 1963, "was to have the role of conducting an assassination effort against Castro." He described Roselli as the CIA's "case officer" for the team.

Ayers said he usually discounted the assassination talk among CIA agents at the Miami station as banter until he encountered the marksman team on a tour of secret CIA training bases in south Florida.

Ayers hinted that Roselli subsequently confirmed to him that assassination was the team's assignment, but Ayers would not discuss the particulars of whatever Roselli told him.