

## THE CIA

### The Kennedy Connection

One of the most often cited admirable acts of John Kennedy's presidency was the manly way he faced up to the humiliating rout of the CIA-backed troops that invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. Offering no excuses, he took personal blame for the disaster even though he had inherited the plan from the Eisenhower Administration. But TIME has been told by credible sources that Kennedy did not accept the defeat all that gracefully. In anger, he and his brother Robert, then Attorney General, covertly ordered agencies of the U.S. Government to find some sure means of deposing Fidel Castro, Cuba's chief of state.

by settel  
1702  
DeVies?

Whether or not assassination attempts against Castro were authorized by the Kennedys is still unclear. But they did send word to the CIA, at least, that he must be knocked out of power by

obviously the R's opposed & killed these. Who else could mix when? Missile crisis? JFK's?

the minutes of a 1962 meeting attended by Secretary of State Dean Rusk, CIA Director John McCone and National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy at which the possible assassination of Castro was discussed. Although the possibility was said to have been dismissed, a memo written two days later by an assistant to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara asked the CIA to prepare contingency plans for killing Castro. It too reportedly was quickly rescinded.

After hearing testimony last week from the present CIA director, William Colby, Church said that "there were surprises . . . there was information that had not surfaced before." The Senator added that Colby had testified "to activity that he himself considered outside the law." Colby and his predecessors at CIA, including McCone, Richard Helms and James Schlesinger, have all publicly denied that the CIA had ever murdered a foreign head of state, but have not explicitly denied

or could have been part of a retaliatory attack on Kennedy for the U.S. efforts to kill Castro. The significance of the Kennedy connection to anti-Castro plots is not that it strengthens the many Oswald conspiracy theories, but that it tends to knock down the notion that the CIA was operating wildly beyond presidential control in scheming against foreign leaders.

## THE CONGRESS

### Copping Out on Energy

With the commitment of a crusader, Democratic Congressman Al Ullman spent months trying to produce an energy policy that would reduce U.S. consumption and make the nation less vulnerable to another Arab oil boycott or price boost. As Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, he devoted day after day to hearings and mark-up sessions on a tough bill that would have raised the tax on gasoline to as much as 40¢ per gal. in stages by 1979, imposed a windfall-profits tax on the oil companies, put a tax on autos with poor mileage and set oil-import quotas.

Ullman's bill never stood a chance in the rambunctious 94th Congress. Bit by bit, all the tough provisions were softened in committee until the final bill resembled what White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen called a "marshmallow." Liberals objected to the gasoline tax. Representatives from oil states did not like the windfall-profits tax. New Englanders protested the import quotas. Congressmen with ties to the auto companies and the United Auto Workers reduced the tax on big cars. Ullman's bill faced at least 100 amendments. Giving up, the House leadership put off consideration of the measure until Congress returns from recess on June 2. But even then no bill is assured.

**No Problem.** The withdrawal of the bill was a humiliating setback for the conscientious Ullman, who hoped to gain the stature of his Ways and Means predecessor Wilbur Mills. Yet the defeat was less a reflection on Ullman's legislative craft than on the condition of Congress, and for that matter, of the country. Said an Ullman aide: "The problem is persuading people that there is a problem. For a lot of people, we're adding a tax to no problem." Yet the U.S. continues to buy huge quantities of oil from the Middle East, remaining perilously dependent on that unpredictable part of the world.

Congressional confusion allows the President to take the lead, and Ford is willing to do so. Last week he vetoed a bill to regulate the strip mining of coal, arguing that the restrictions arrived at to protect the environment would be too costly for consumers and reduce coal production. Though the bill had passed the House May 7 by a 293-to-115 margin, the Democratic leaders put off until



ROBERT & JACK KENNEDY AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1962  
Knocking down the notion that the CIA was out of control.

any means the agency could devise. Two obvious possibilities: fomenting political upheaval or plotting an assassination. Similarly, the State Department and possibly the FBI and the Pentagon were told that ways should be found to get rid of Castro. The CIA did work with two U.S. Mafia leaders, Sam Giancana and John Roselli, in unsuccessful attempts to kill the Cuban leader.

**Possible Assassination.** It is still unclear just how deeply the Kennedy connection is being investigated by the two groups that are probing the CIA: the Senate Intelligence Operations Committee chaired by Senator Frank Church and the commission headed by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller. According to the Associated Press, the Rockefeller commission has acquired

that any such attempts had been made. Asked about Colby's testimony, a visibly angry Church said that "it is simply intolerable that any agency of the Government of the United States may engage in murder." The implication was that Colby had conceded that assassinations had been at least discussed within the CIA. But how high in Government had such plans been considered? Replied Church: "We're exploring this aspect with great particularity."

If the committees do link the Kennedy brothers with the plots against Castro's life, as TIME sources have done, this may add impetus to demands for a renewed investigation of President Kennedy's death. No investigation has established that Lee Harvey Oswald had been in touch with any Cuban leaders



5/29/75

Dear Tom,

*Jesman*

FBI, basing on what I think you will recall I have been forecasting for some time as a Ford/Belin-CIA defense, this excerpt from the current Time (dated 6/2/75):

Under the head The CIA: The Kennedy Connection-

"If the committees do link the Kennedy brothers with the plots against Castro's life, as Time's sources have done, this may add impetus ~~for~~ to demands for a renewed investigation of President Kennedy's death....it tends to knock down the notion that the CIA was operating wildly beyond presidential control in scheming against foreign leaders."

And what this approach really suggests is what I have been expecting as one of the government's two new lines of resistance/defense, first deterring as much as possible and then misdirecting.

I believe that on some high level there has been a decision for a new whitewash.

The Garrison variant of this line seems to originate with Bud Fensterwald in late 1967. That also coincides with when I learned of it from Garrison and tried to deter him. When I was successful in that Mark Lane picket it up just at the time Bobby was assassinated, actually the night before. Lane's is also manufacture. He is currently engaged in an endeavor that is most likely to freeze Burton into his stated position that has received little attention in the press: he personally will kill any House effort at a new investigation that does not begin with Teddy'd demand.

The Garrison version has Bobby made witting at Guantanamo.

The original source seems to have been a former admiral.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg