

Singapore

Lawyer: I told FBI of Castro plot to kill JFK

WASHINGTON, Sunday

A FORMER attorney for slain mobster John Roselli said yesterday he told the FBI as early as 1967 of Roselli's belief that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro ordered President John Kennedy assassinated in retaliation for alleged CIA attempts against Mr. Castro's life.

Roselli was one of the underworld figures the CIA recruited to try to kill Mr. Castro.

The attorney, Mr. Edward Morgan, also said he asked columnist Drew Pearson in January 1967 to tell Chief Justice Earl Warren of Roselli's fears. Chief Justice Warren headed the investigation into the Kennedy assassination.

'Blind memo'

The Senate Intelligence Committee last June released an FBI "blind memorandum" with its report on the part the intelligence community played in the Kennedy assassination investigation.

The memo, dated March 21, 1967, was of an interview with the FBI in which the Cuban connection was reported.

Although the interviewee was not identified in the committee report, Mr. Morgan acknowledged to a reporter that he had made the statements.

Mr. Morgan said he had learned from Roselli that "during the last CIA-backed attempt on Mr. Castro's life," the would-be assassin "was caught and was assassinated and confessed the whole story to Mr. Castro about the CIA plot to kill him."

"Castro's reaction was that if that's the way the Americans played the game, we can play the same game, indicating a purpose on his part to retaliate against Kennedy," Mr. Morgan added.

Contacts

Mr. Morgan said he could not recall the exact date of the final attempt on Premier Castro's life, but he believed it was in 1962 or 1963.

Mr. Morgan said Roselli's information came from contacts close to Mr. Castro who were involved in the assassination attempts on Mr. Castro.

Chief Justice Warren did not discuss with Mr. Morgan the allegations he made through Mr. Pearson. The allegations were reported to the FBI which eventually questioned Mr. Morgan.

Neither the Warren Commission nor any other government agency has concluded that Mr. Castro actually was involved in President Kennedy's death.

Roselli's body was found stuffed in a chain-wrapped oil drum in Biscayne Bay near Miami, on Aug. 7, ten days after he disappeared.—AP.