

LBJ hinted CIA plot in JFK death

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ods and sources could be damaged by public detail.

"Some leads and other facts" have been withheld from the final report, according to one of the key members of the Church committee, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, R-Pa.

Schweiker said through a spokesman

that one of the "very intriguing and provocative" details that didn't appear in last week's final report was Mr. Johnson's apparent 1967 concern over what role members of the CIA could have had in the Dallas slaying of Mr. Kennedy.

For instance, the back of the Church committee report carries a chronology of key dates from 1959, when Fidel Castro took over the Cuban government, through White House concern in 1967 that Castro had plotted Mr. Kennedy's death in retaliation for numerous U.S. plots against Castro.

The chronology especially zeroes in on clandestine CIA moves to overthrow Castro during a several-year period.

But the entry in the chronology for April 4, 1967, on the last page of the report, merely says: "Watson calls DeLoach and advises that the President is convinced there was a plot in connection with Kennedy's assassination."

The fact that Mr. Johnson may have

been concerned it was a CIA plot appears in the final version.

"We never really were able to tell Mr. Johnson what was going on in the minds of the CIA for Mr. Kennedy's death," Schweiker said.

Late last year, DeLoach told Sen. Johnson during a session of the Church committee that he felt President Johnson "that a certain agency may have been involved in a conspiracy . . . to be speculated."

DeLoach said that Watson, then chief assistant to the President, did pick up the phone call, after DeLoach that Mr. Johnson had said off moment that he was now convinced that there was a plot in connection with the assassination.

The comment attributed to Mr. DeLoach was made nearly 2 1/2 years after the President's death. DeLoach said that the CIA had concluded that Oswald had been no plot — that Oswald had acted alone.

LBJ hinted CIA plot in Kennedy slaying

By SETH KANTOR

New Washington Bureau
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WASHINGTON — President Johnson apparently became privately convinced early in 1967 that the CIA had been involved in the assassination of President Kennedy, based on information quietly passed to the FBI by a top Johnson aide, W. Marvin Watson.

Watson telephoned Assistant FBI Director Carlin D. DeLoach late on the night of April 3, 1967, requesting in behalf of the President that the FBI probe what the CIA might have had in an assassination conspiracy.

The extent of any involvement, if it existed, was not detailed.

The Watson phone call followed the next day by a confidential high-level

memorandum from DeLoach to FBI Associate Director Clyde A. Tolson about the presidential request and whatever further developments there were regarding Mr. Johnson's suspicions about CIA actions in 1963 are among details omitted from a special Senate Intelligence Committee's final report issued last Wednesday.

The 106-page report on the behavior of U.S. intelligence agencies in relationship to the assassination of President Kennedy was made public in June 22.

But the report had been 66 pages longer before the CIA officials reviewed its contents earlier in June according to information obtained by The Detroit News.

The Senate committee headed by Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, is reported to

have been pressured by intelligence sources to make certain deletions from the report before it was made public.

The CIA, for instance, is reliably said to have held up the public release of the report until one whole segment was removed — a segment dealing with secret CIA tape-recordings of two telephone conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City, nearly two months before Oswald was charged with the death of Mr. Kennedy in Dallas.

An article in the New York Times by Nicholas M. Horrocks last Sept. 21 revealed that the CIA had taped Oswald's conversations with Cuban and Russian embassy personnel in late September and early October, 1963.

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The fact that Mr. Johnson may have

been concerned it was a CIA plot does not appear in the final version.

"We never really were able to tell" if Mr. Johnson was trying to blame elements of the CIA for Mr. Kennedy's death, Schweiker said.

Late last year, DeLoach told Schweiker during a session of the Church committee that he felt President Johnson's view "that a certain agency may have been involved in a conspiracy... no longer speculation."

DeLoach said that Watson, then a special assistant to the President, didn't follow up the phone call, after telling DeLoach that Mr. Johnson had said "in an off moment that he was now convinced that there was a plot in connection with the assassination."

The comment attributed to Mr. Johnson was made nearly 2½ years after the Warren Commission had concluded that there had been no plot — that Oswald had acted alone.