

Did Castro Foes Plot JFK Death?

By THOMAS B. ROSS

WASHINGTON — New evidence in a still-secret Senate report has raised the possibility that anti-Castro groups, once supported by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) may have been behind the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

The report tends to cast doubt on the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in shooting Kennedy in Dallas in 1963. Rather, it strongly suggests a Cuban connection.

The evidence does not point conclusively either to a pro-Castro or an anti-Castro motivation in the assassination. But the bulk of the 170-page report deals with the anti-Castro groups, possibly because they were operating in the United States and, therefore, were more susceptible to scrutiny.

The report, the final document in the 15-month investigation of the intelligence agencies by a select committee of the Senate, is scheduled to be made public within two weeks.

The report does not directly implicate the CIA but implies that certain anti-Castro groups may have retaliated against Kennedy after he ordered the CIA to sever its financial ties to them in 1962.

The Kennedy order grew out of the

Cuban missile crisis which was settled when the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw its missiles and the United States promised to stop trying to overthrow Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Until that time, the CIA had been aggressively engaged in attempts to assassinate Castro and to undermine his regime with parliamentary operations. Thousands of exiled Cubans, operating other Southern states were involved in the CIA program.

One of the key unanswered questions is how some of the anti-Castro groups managed to stay in existence, even to the point of maintaining the camps, long after they were cut off financially by the CIA.

The Senate select committee disclosed earlier this year that Mafia chiefs, anxious to reclaim their multi-million gambling and prostitution operations in Cuba, cooperated in the CIA efforts to kill Castro.

The CIA failed to disclose the assassination efforts to the Warren Commission. The commission also was kept in the dark about a special intergovernmental committee set up by then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, prior to the assassination, to look into the possibility that Castro might try to kill U. S. leaders.

Before the assassination there was only one public indication that the CIA might be plotting Castro's death. Three months earlier, it had been reported that the CIA had a connection with the late Chicago gang boss Sam Giancana.

But John McCone, CIA director at the time, flatly denied this.

McCone is expected to be called to explain matters as part of a new investigation into the assassination by a permanent new Senate Intelligence Committee after the November elections.

Among the questions that probably will be posed to McCone are:

✓ Why did the CIA fail to inform the Warren Commission that it had been plotting to assassinate Castro?

✓ Why in particular did the late CIA Director Allen Dulles, a member of the commission, keep quiet?

✓ Did Robert Kennedy or President Lyndon B. Johnson intervene to prevent disclosure of the interdepartmental committee that sought to determine if Castro might order a counter-program of assassination?

✓ Did the CIA know of any plots against President Kennedy by anti-Castro groups that it had stopped financing?

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